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## Nation mourns and buries its dead

### Inquiry panel begins its task

**By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

At first light, the commission of inquiry into the helicopter collision began sifting through the wreckage of the two CH-53 helicopters, trying to determine what caused them to crash and what needs to be done to prevent further accidents.

Led by David Ivry, a former OC Air Force and Defense Ministry director-general, the commission queried witnesses yesterday and grilled IAF inspectors on the events.

The CH-53 has no black box and there were no survivors, which makes it that much more difficult to conclude what went wrong. Preliminary investigations did not find any signs of a technical malfunction, and witnesses said that there was not stormy weather when the accident occurred, raising speculation that the collision was the result of human error. Two-thirds of all CH-53 crashes have been determined to be the result of human error.

Military sources said the two helicopters had actually delayed their departure to Lebanon by 24 hours because of bad weather. The two helicopters were flying near the border and about to split, one to the IDF position of Binat Jetal and the other to the position at Beaufort.

According to military regulations, pilots of CH-53 helicopters flying in formation are obligated to maintain eye contact and the minimum distance between helicopters must never be more than 2.5 rotor diameters. Apparently there was fog and the first helicopter shut its lights off - according to procedure - since this may cause vertigo in the following helicopter pilot. It was then that the second helicopter apparently hit the first and immediately crashed, military sources said.

The pilot of the stricken lead helicopter tried to perform an emergency landing, but he too crashed about 150 meters away.

The commission of inquiry collected helicopter parts to examine.

The commission is expected to file its interim results by the end of next week.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the commission has the authority to make rulings which the Defense Ministry and IDF are obligated to adopt and implement.



Comrades of Lt. Kobi Ben-Shem mourn for him at his funeral yesterday in Ramat Hasharon. (Gideon Markowicz)

### Nation mourns biggest loss since 1973

**By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, DAVID RUDGE, LIAT COLLINS and HAIM SHAPIRO**

The nation turned inward yesterday, uniting behind the tragic deaths of 73 of its young soldiers in a horrific collision of two Lebanon-bound helicopters. Flags were lowered to half-mast, as the country began burying its dead.

"This is the worst national tragedy that has happened to the IDF," said the weary Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, after returning from the crash site.

Throughout the country, families, friends and comrades carried coffin after flag-draped coffin to their graves. Reflecting the mosaic make-up of the state, the 73 who died were from development towns in the North to Eilat in the South. They were from the big cities of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and Beersheba, and from kibbutzim and settlements in Judea and Samaria. They were Jews, Druze and Moslems and Beduin.

It was the highest number of IDF casualties in one day since the Yom Kippur War.

"I am sure that all of the state of Israel is in pain and suffering from this great loss," said the visibly shaken Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

More funerals are to be held today and the IDF is making great efforts to identify the remains of the few who were still not identified by last night, said Brig. Gen. Onn Ragonis, deputy OC Manpower.

Mordechai arrived at a news conference in Tel Aviv last night after attending two funerals and visiting the family of a third victim. He reiterated that the IDF would maintain its presence in the security zone and expressed regret over the public debate over a withdrawal.

"I advise that we don't make mistakes and draw wrong conclusions in pain," Mordechai said.

The crash came after a debate over the human cost of remaining in the security zone, and calls for a unilateral withdrawal. Hizbullah has traditionally hit at the IDF at its soft underbelly, mainly its supply convoys. The use of the helicopters was the IDF's attempt to bypass this threat. IAF officers said the practice would continue despite the accident, which killed more soldiers than Hizbullah had in three years.

OC Manpower Maj. Gen. Gideon Sheffer was more blunt. "The soldiers in Lebanon have a mission. If there is a debate on Lebanon it should not be done on the backs of the soldiers. They are not asking for withdrawal, but they are the first to be harmed by such talk," he told Channel 2.

Last night, Mordechai spoke with US Secretary of Defense William Cohen, who expressed condolences to the IDF in the name of the American government and US defense establishment. Cohen also offered to extend Israel help in dealing with the matter, Mordechai's office said. Similar condolence messages were received from Britain, Germany and other countries.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made it clear yesterday, during a visit to the crash site at She'ar Yashuv, that the disaster would not change Israel's policies.

**Continued on Page 4**

## Tears for 73 families

**By HERB KEIMON**

With flags at half-mast, places of entertainment closed and tears in tens of thousands of eyes, a stunned nation tried yesterday to digest the helicopter disaster that - in one instant - took 73 lives.

Seventy-three families, their last names representing all the nation's various ethnic groups, were bereaved - more families, indeed, than populate Moshav She'ar Yashuv, where one of the helicopters crashed.

Seventy-three soldiers and airmen - about one-tenth of the number of soldiers killed in the Six Day War. Seventy-three open graves. Seventy-three sets of parents besides themselves in pain. The mind boggles.

"Sgt. Avishai Gidron, 19, from Kiryat Motzkin," read the deep-voiced radio announcer early yesterday morning, beginning the heart-rendering recitation - that continued mercilessly throughout the day - of the seemingly endless list of casualties.

"Sgt. Idan Minker, 20, from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak," the news-caster continued. "Sgt. Aviv Gonen, 20, from Petah Tikvah,



St. Sgt. Nadav Lischinski, 20, from Sde Avraham. St. Sgt. Asaf Siboni, 20, from Kibbutz Nir An..."

The list was read, in jackhammer-like rhythm, over and over and over. And, jackhammer-like, the effect was penetrating.

On one occasion the list was followed by the Miki Gabriellov song, "Let us live."

"God in heaven," the raspy-voiced Gabriellov said, "Look us in the face and tell us why people look for, but don't find, miracles. Let us live, let us live. Let us sleep in peace without worrying."

Some surely found their grief expressed in the sad, melancholy songs - like Gabriellov's - that filled the airwaves and reflected

and say unto him: Keep calm and be quiet; fear not, neither let thy heart be faint, because of these two tails of smoking firebrands..."

Others may have found solace in the words of MK Ehud Barak (Labor), recited from the Knesset's rostrum.

"The shocking images that visited every home from the television screen hit you right in the stomach," Barak said, sounding more like a poet than a former chief of staff. "The shocking images of ammunition exploding from broken pieces of the helicopter... the bodies, not breathing, laid out in front of us, in long, long rows."

"All of this we will painfully carry with us until our final days," Barak said, his voice cracking. "A sea of tears flooded the state of Israel last night, among them my own tears. This is a moment of agonizing pain. And also a test, a supreme test of our staying power... We are struggling over our very right to live here in peace and security. That struggle will be decided by our steadfastness, by our staying power, by the power to continue not only in moments of success, but also in difficult moments like these... Yitkadash, ve'Yitkadash, shmech rahab."

## Swiss banks establish Holocaust fund

**By MARILYN HENRY**

**NEW YORK** - In the first significant move for compensation for survivors, Switzerland's three largest banks deposited 100 million Swiss francs in an escrow account as the basis for a "humanitarian" Holocaust fund, the banks announced yesterday.

The banks - Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland - invited additional contributions from other parties, in a blatant bid for the Swiss Government and the Swiss National Bank to add to the fund.

"I think it is a good step in the right direction and it is definitely going to cool off the whole controversy," said Kalman Sultani, a vice president of the World Jewish Congress.

The banks trust that this initiative will clear the way for the Swiss government, Switzerland's business and financial community, and Jewish organizations to work together toward finding a just and equitable solution to the issues involved, the banks said in a joint statement.

The fund, called "The Humanitarian Fund for the Victims of the Holocaust," was "separate from and unaffected by" the investigative efforts by the Volcker Committee to identify unclaimed bank accounts belonging to Nazi victims, the statement said.

The next move is up to the Swiss government, as the banks left the task of determining a plan for allocations to Bern. The escrow account is at the Swiss National Bank "for the time being, until the Swiss government determines how the fund will be structured," the banks' statement said.

Two weeks ago, Rainer Got, president of Credit Suisse, publicly stepped up the pressure on the Swiss government to set up a fund to help victims of the Holocaust. At that time, he did not offer many details about the fund, except to say it should include contributions from the Swiss government, banks and insurance companies, should be more than \$71 million, and should benefit all victims of the Holocaust.

The Swiss Bankers Association also hailed the fund, calling it "an appropriate and major first step forward in resolving this important and complex issue in a dignified, meaningful and equitable manner."

In a statement issued yesterday, the SBA affirmed its commitment to the forensic audit being overseen by the Volcker Committee. "Our primary objective is to assure that all remaining dormant accounts in Switzerland will either be matched with their rightful owner or donated to charity," the association's statement said. "We are proceeding toward this goal as sensitively and promptly as possible."

**How Much Is Your Stamp Collection Worth?**

David Boyd, Director of the Philatelic Department of Phillips, the International Fine Art and Antique Auctioneers, will be visiting Israel during the week commencing February 10. He will be available to advise, regarding the valuation and sale at auction of stamp collections, old envelopes, postcards, cigarette cards and old "busted" bonds and share certificates.

For more information, or to make an appointment, phone Samantha Ashley in London on  
**Tel. (44) 171 468 8345**

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## Tragedy hits all sectors as country unites in sorrow

### Beduin village grieves for cousins

Two Beduin trackers from Beit Zarzir, in the Jezreel Valley, were being brought to the security zone to return to duty when the crash occurred.

Hassin Rahal, 28, and Kamel Rahal, 27, who rode in the same helicopter, were cousins.

Lt.-Col. Hassan Rahal said Hassin was not meant to return to Lebanon on Tuesday.

However, another tracker, a relative whose father had a heart attack and had to go to the hospital, asked Hassin to replace him.

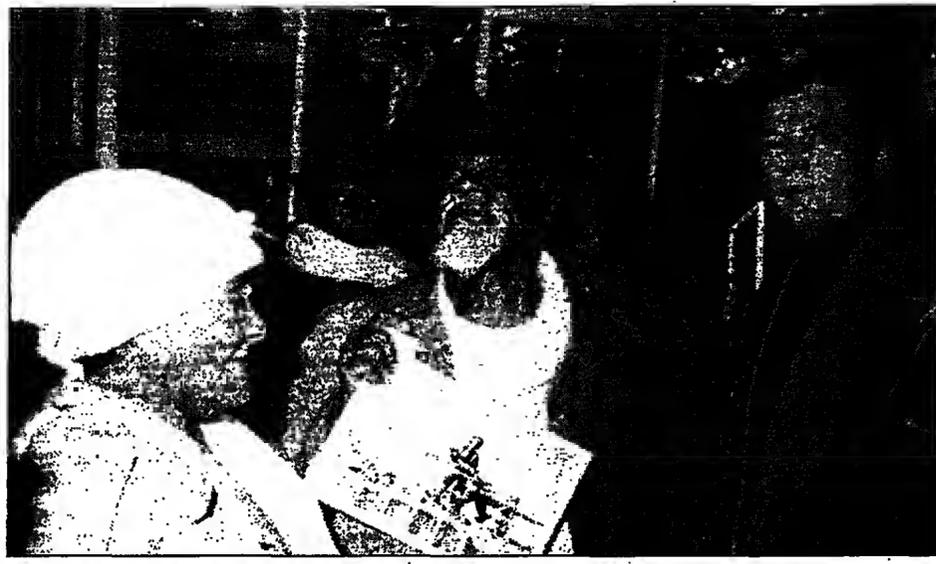
Hassin and Kamel traveled together by car to the helicopter landing pad.

"We have suffered many losses in the past two years, but will continue on, and believe in fate," said Hib.

Beit Zarzir has lost 35 soldiers in wars.

Hassin is survived by his wife, and four children, aged 4, 3, 2, and two months.

Kamel is survived by his wife and two children, aged 3 and 18 months. (Tim)



#### For an immigrant family, the ultimate sacrifice

The parents of Cpl. Gideon Mnlato show a picture of their son, who was killed in Tuesday's crash, to Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (right). Gideon was born in Ethiopia and made aliya in 1992 with his parents, brother and sister. The family was given a small apartment in Lod and Gideon went off to study at the Orti Hanegev boarding school in the south. Later, he attended the Negev College. On completion of his studies, Gideon volunteered for the crack Palsar (Pugat Stryar) Nahal reconnaissance unit. He was one of six new immigrants who lost their lives in the crash. (See Batsheva Tur photo Yitzhak Olsner/Scope 80)

### THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL mourns the death of **73 Fighting Men of the Israel Defense Forces**

who lost their lives in the helicopter crash over She'ar Yashuv, on their way to active duty in South Lebanon.

The Government shares the grief of the bereaved families, and the sorrow of the commanders and comrades of the fallen, and of the entire IDF, and offers condolences to the grieving families.

### THE KNESSET

#### The Knesset Speaker Deputy Speakers Knesset Members and the Knesset Staff

are deeply grieved by the death of seventy-three of the country's finest sons, defenders of Israel's security, and offer sympathy to the families.

### BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY together with the entire State of Israel, deeply mourns the tragic loss of the country's dedicated servicemen and expresses deep sympathy to their families.

Festive events scheduled for today are canceled:

President's Forum for Israeli business leaders with the Minister of Industry and Trade  
Symposium for ambassadors on the Israeli economy with the Bank of Israel Governor

### LIBI - the Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

With bowed head, we offer deepest condolences to the families of the soldiers killed in the helicopter accident. Our hearts are with the soldiers and commanders of the IDF.

Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt  
Chairman of the Libi Fund

### KEREN HAYESOD - UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

The leaders, volunteers, contributors and employees of Keren Hayesod in Israel and throughout the world deeply mourn the tragic death of 73 IDF men in the helicopter disaster, and express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

We mourn, together with the House of Israel, the death of **73 brave soldiers** killed in Tuesday's tragic air collision. We extend our condolences to the bereaved families, and our sympathy to the IDF in its difficult hour.

Management and Staff  
The Jerusalem Post

### To the Bereaved Families

in the great loss of their precious ones, and to Israel in the loss of its brave soldiers, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and compassion in this time of private and national mourning.

Christian Friends of Israel, Jerusalem

### The Jewish Agency      The World Zionist Organization

Rain is falling. It falls on the faces of my friends, my friends in the land of the living. They cover their heads in a blanket. It falls on the faces of my friends who are dead, who can cover themselves no more.

Yehuda Amichai  
May their memory be a blessing.

Avraham Burg      Charles (Corky) Goodman  
Chairman, Zionist Executive      Chairman, Board of Trustees  
and the Management of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization

With great sorrow we announce the passing of  
**ELSIE TANAMAN** ז"ל  
Beloved mother of Baruch Tanamen  
The funeral will take place today, Thurs., Feb. 6, at 1 p.m., at the New Cemetery in Ra'anana  
Shiva: 35 Ostrovsky St., Ra'anana

P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds  
mourn the loss of  
**HAROLD WARSHAWSKY**  
A dear friend and co-worker  
B. Harrison Frankel, President  
Sydney A. Luria, Chairman

In sorrow, we announce the death of  
**ARNON KIRSCH**  
The Family: Shirley Kirsch, Jonathan, Michael and Rina, Susan and Ellezer, Ella Jacobson, Ruth Berman, Heidi and Shavi  
Please call 03-5441193, for details of the funeral.

In deep sadness we announce the death of our beloved  
**SHIMEON AMIR (ENREICH)** ז"ל  
The funeral will take place today, Thursday, February 6, 1997, at 2 p.m., leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Home for Har Hamenuhot.  
The family

### Jerusalem's Rene Cassin school mourns two more fallen soldiers

Tragedy struck Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School again Tuesday when the She'ar Yashuv helicopter accident claimed the lives of Itamar Shai and Omer Shalit, raising the number of graduates of the school who have died in the line of duty to 24.

Pupils at the school were to have held a memorial for their fallen yesterday, with scholarships to be awarded in the name of Maya Kopstein, killed in the Beit Lid bombing. However, school officials called it off after the helicopter tragedy.

"Instead, we decided to have an open school today, and allow pupils to express their feelings," Violet Gez, the school principal, said.

The fact that the school had experienced so much loss among its graduates did not make yesterday's situation any easier, she said. "The experience does not make us stronger, the pain is only more intense," she said.

When news of the two soldiers' deaths was announced, other graduates from different classes came to the school to be with their teachers and fellow pupils.

Shai graduated in 1994, and wanted to be a teacher, Gez said. Shalit graduated in 1995, and had wanted to serve in Army Radio. Two of his sisters study at the school. (Tim)

### Kfar Sava's Gili high school remembers three former students

Old yearbooks were passed around at Kfar Sava's Gili high school yesterday, as students remembered three graduates who were killed in the tragic helicopter accident the night before. However, teachers said they did not need the yearbooks to prod their memories, as the three former students - Lt. Nir

Shribman, 20, of Kfar Sava, St. Sgt. Shahar Kasus, 20, of Alfei Menashe, and Capt. Saguy Berkovitch, 21, of Alfei Menashe - all had kept in touch with them after graduating and beginning their army service.

As students and teachers proceeded to Kasus's and Berkovitch's funerals, class coor-

director Carinela Villansky said she remembered Kasus as an introverted pupil, noting that his mother died when he was in ninth grade. Berkovitch was a well-mannered gentleman, she said, recalling the school's pride when he completed an officer's course. Shribman is to be buried today. (Tim)

### A brilliant career cut short

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Nim

Capt. Vitaly Radinsky was in the final stages of completing his specialization as a chest surgeon when he was called to do reserve duty in Lebanon.

His colleagues at Rambam Hospital in Haifa said yesterday that he had had a premonition something was going to happen. "When I said: 'See you after Lebanon,' he replied: 'Maybe yes, maybe no,'" one of the doctors said. "Here at the hospital, he had often seen what happened to soldiers in Lebanon." Born in the former Soviet Union in 1969, Radinsky made aliya with his family in 1990 and settled in Or Akiva. Shortly after arrival, his son was born.

Everything appeared to be going smoothly for the new immigrants. Radinsky participated in the first course for immigrant doctors and completed it with distinction. Immediately after that, he began working at Rambam and in 1993 decided to specialize in chest surgery.

"He was brilliant and we predicted a great future for him in the department," department head Dr. Anton Best said yesterday.

Doctors and nurses alike said Radinsky was quiet and hard-working and had become popular with his colleagues. On learning of his death, the hospital staff lowered the flag outside to half-mast.

### 'My country is important to me'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

I can still see Lt. Alon Babayan's bright green eyes looking over his Golan platoon in south Lebanon like a mother hen.

His cheeks were puffed out from his taut chin strap and he was grinning at his men, reminding them of the dangers of this war zone and to keep their helmets on, look alert. He was telling them that the IDF had supplied them with the best equipment to protect them.

"Just because the army is protecting us doesn't mean we are scared or frightened. It's simply a war," the 21-year-old lieutenant told me during a visit with his unit in Lebanon at the Beaufort castle just two months ago.

"Every mother of these guys is expecting me to return their son healthy and in one piece. The responsibility is as heavy. Just thinking about it is hard," he said to me. "But my country is important to me and it's the duty of every soldier to do the best he can."

"We want to kill terrorists. That's our job and that's why we are here. We came here to kill," Babayan said then. Instead, he was one of the 73 killed in the helicopter crash. Yesterday, Babayan, the oldest of four children, the big brother, was buried at Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl military cemetery.

### ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY Nitzana Border Crossing Post

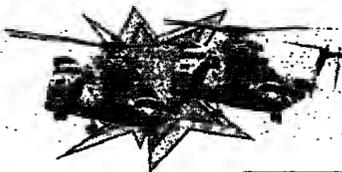
Because of a Moslem religious holiday, the Nitzana Border Crossing Post will be closed for three days,

from Sunday, February 9 to Tuesday, February 11.  
The crossing post will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12.



Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.





NEWSLINE

with Prof. Yisrael Orbach

Prof. Yisrael Orbach is a psychologist at Bar-Ilan University

Over the long term, do the accumulated tragedies that befall Israel strengthen the national will or wear the people down?

Some nations are weakened by continual tragedies, while in others, the opposite occurs. The Jews are world champions in dealing with tragedy throughout our history, from ancient times through the Holocaust and during the years of statehood. It's part of our identity — not that we wish it so or have asked for it. The Jew has been a victim, but the people survive, and that is our victory. But, of course, this doesn't minimize the great personal loss of the families involved or the sadness in the nation.

Does the fact that 73 soldiers died in an accident, and not at the hands of an enemy, make it more difficult to cope, as there is no release for anger?

This type of tragedy doesn't produce national anger, but sadness and depression. But one can't say that it is a meaningless sacrifice, like any road accident. The soldiers were on their way to Lebanon for a security operation, to defend Israel. A tragedy based on a meaningful purpose is easier to cope with than an ordinary accident.

How long will the national unity in the wake of the catastrophe continue? Can the political leadership find a way to preserve its momentum so it doesn't dissipate?

True leadership can instill significance and public order. But the feeling of unity doesn't remain of its own. The leaders must make a daily effort to preserve the feeling of brotherhood created by the deaths, to emphasize what we have in common rather than what divides us.

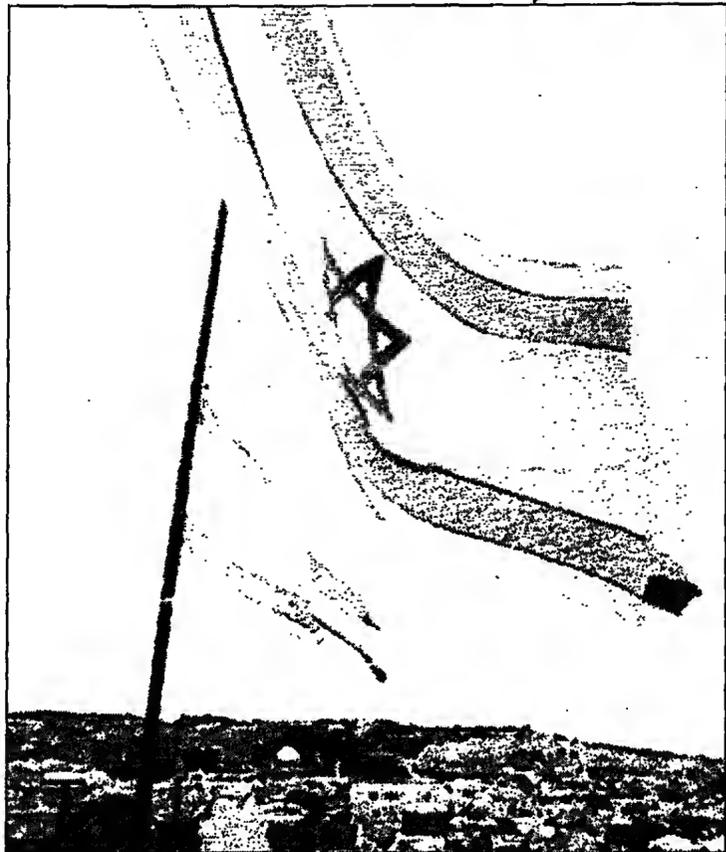
Is it easier for religious than secular Jews to cope emotionally with a tragedy like this?

Religious Jews who believe in an afterlife and see a divine purpose in everything will probably be able to grapple with such an event more easily, but secular Jews with strong value systems can do so as well.

How does one explain the loss of 73 soldiers to young children in kindergarten or in school?

Small children regard such events as "the good guys" versus "the bad guys," which in this circumstance is not so relevant. One must speak to young children in their own terms, get them to voice their worries and fears without forcing them. Older youngsters who are aware of the situation and face the army know much more, but they too should be helped to discuss their feelings, especially the notion that the troubles just don't seem to end.

Judy Siegel



The nation's flag flies at half-mast against a cloudy sky atop Jerusalem's Tower of David museum yesterday, in honor of the 73 soldiers killed in the helicopter collision. (AP)

A different kind of education

By AMY KLEIN

Seventy-three memorial candles burned on a placard around the words "Yehi Zichron Baruch" ("May They Be of Blessed Memory") in the entrance of the Sieff school in Jerusalem's Beit Hakerem neighborhood.

Like the rest of the country, the schools have to deal with the tragedy of Tuesday's helicopter crash. For the thousand students that attend the Sieff junior and senior high school (7-12 grades), it wasn't the usual day of classes.

"For the first periods, we let each child express himself in the classrooms," educational adviser Shoshana Ben-Dov said. "They had all heard different things. We told them what happened."

She said that being straightforward and factual allays fears. It helps the students focus on specific questions, such as what type of helicopter it was, and where the troops were headed.

"They felt better to know that it was a military expedition, the deaths became less senseless," Ben-Dov said.

"The students are reacting maturely," she said, citing the case of a girl who had been worried about her cousin in the army, and adding that "there were no hyster-

ics." By mid-morning, all of the students had participated in discussion groups and traded reactions to the events. Some teachers had let the students out to watch the news.

In the entrance hallway, dozens of students were crowded around the television blaring out the names of the soldiers.

"After Rabin's death, I didn't think there would ever be a day that I would be as sad as I was then," said Yael Avner, 18, a twelfth-grader from Bayit Vegan. "That's going to be us next year."

A group of tenth-graders had a multitude of opinions.

"You get used to it," said Yair Gabai, 15.

"You have to get over it," said another.

"I don't want to go to the army," said the only girl in the group. "I'll be a noncombat soldier."

Tali Lazon, a 24-year-old seventh grade literature teacher, had her students write about how they felt.

"They all know the facts. I find the best way is sitting in front of a blank piece of paper," she said.

A girl of 13 read her piece before the silent class: "Seventy-three candles. Seventy-three dreams. Seventy-three pairs of eyes. Seventy-three happy families. Seventy-three could be anything. But not this time."

LOSS

Continued from Page 1

regarding the region.

"I would not suggest to anybody that they should draw any political conclusions," he said. "I think the joy — this horrible thing — you heard from Hizbullah groups just shows who we are dealing with. These are people who say their aim is not just to get us out of Lebanon, but to get us out of Israel. We, from our point of view, are certainly not going to change our basic policy to defend the North with all necessary means against these people, these organizations."

In a special cabinet session in the Knesset, Netanyahu described the incident as "One of the worst tragedies known to the IDF and the nation."

He outlined details of the special day of national mourning which started yesterday at 3 p.m. and will end today at 6 p.m.

The Knesset opened a special session mourning the 73 IDF officers and soldiers who fell in the tragedy. (Story, Page 4)

President Ezer Weizman, Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu sat stone-faced in the VIP gallery, US Ambassador Martin Indyk also attended, wearing a black kippa.

The chief rabbis yesterday called upon the public to fast today in memory of the soldiers killed in the crash, and to culminate the day of mourning with a mass prayer service at the Western Wall at 4 p.m.

Speaking at a special memorial gathering of the Chief Rabbinical Council, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron noted that today is the eve of the new Hebrew month, a day traditionally known as *Yom Kippur Katan* and marked by fasting and penitential prayers. Both rabbis called upon the public to undertake spiritual reckoning and to repent in light of the tragedy.

The country's schools are to hold memorial assemblies at 9 a.m. this morning, after lessons begin with classroom discussions

of the tragedy. Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Del said the pedagogic councils of all the schools were to meet last night to discuss how to conduct classes today. All school celebrations and trips scheduled for today are to be canceled.

Malls, cafes and many restaurants were closed yesterday and are to be closed today. Sports events planned for yesterday were canceled and other sports events planned for this week are to begin with a moment of silence for the victims.

The day of mourning is also to be marked by Israeli diplomatic missions abroad, which have been instructed to fly flags at half-mast and to hold memorial gathering in conjunction with local Jewish communities. Israeli diplomats have been asked to cancel their participation in festive events. In keeping with the public day of mourning, El Al has canceled its entertainment program on flights for today.

Special units devote themselves to painful mission of identifying bodies, informing families

By RAINE MARCUS

IDF body identification units, together with police forensic scientists, still were trying to identify some 19 victims of Tuesday evening's helicopter crash, IDF deputy personnel officer Brig.-Gen. On Regoniss said yesterday.

Fifty-four victims have been positively identified, 10 bodies have been transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, while the remaining bodies were taken to a special identification unit near Tel Aviv's Reading power station yesterday.

Twenty-three soldiers were buried yesterday at funerals around the country. All families of the deceased have been notified by IDF teams, each team including a doctor and many staffed by reserve duty soldiers and volunteers, in a "difficult and most painful mission," Regoniss said.

The teams worked throughout the night to

bring families the terrible news.

"Only those who have experienced such tragedies can understand what the bereaved families must be going through," he said at a press conference. "The soldiers who fell were those who contributed to the North, the country and the IDF. The IDF is crying together with the rest of the country."

The IDF opened information hot lines as the tragic news broke on Tuesday. Some 1,600 people phoned to find out what had happened to their loved ones. Regoniss praised the identification units, headed by the IDF chaplain, "whose dedication knows no limits."

"They have indeed carried out painful and holy tasks," he said.

Many victims were identified by fingerprints, dental X-rays and army dogtags. The IDF also arranged all burials and did its best to enable friends and unit commanders to attend funerals.

"Now one of the most important tasks is to give all our support to the bereaved families," Regoniss said.

He added that the IDF notification teams initially informed families that their loved ones were missing, even before the victims were positively identified.

"We have in recent years developed a support system for bereaved families, and will continue to develop it, especially now after this tragedy, probably the worst of its kind in the IDF," he said.

Many soldiers were from the Nabal unit, and victims included 18 officers, commando fighters, mechanics, navigators, surveillance soldiers and cooks, as well as the flight crew.

Regoniss anticipated that all funerals would take place by tomorrow, and thanked police and various municipalities for their cooperation and help.

Knesset mourns '73 heavenly stars'

By LIAT COLLINS

"The Knesset weeps for its sons."

With those stark words Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon opened the special session mourning the 73 IDF officers and soldiers who fell in Tuesday's helicopter tragedy. The flag behind him in the Knesset plenum flew at half-mast. President Ezer Weizman, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu sat stony-faced in the VIP gallery. The US and Canadian ambassadors also were present, Martin Indyk wearing a black kippa.

The session started with a minute of silence. The MKs remained eerily quiet throughout. The calls for unity in grief were redundant, the pain showing on the faces of the country's elected representatives. They had been shocked into silence and the House was at one with itself and the nation.

Knesset Clerk Arieh Hahn read Psalm No. 13, including the phrase: "How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?"

"Words cannot not express the size of the disaster," Tichon said. "Seventy-three young lives were cut down in their prime; 73 heavenly stars were extinguished; 73 buds picked before they managed to flower; a band of great fighters who were not separated in their deaths."

"Dear families, parents, wives, brothers, sisters and relatives, our hearts are with you at this terrible hour. Your pain is our pain....The

terrible grief unites all of us and turns us into one family.... The heroism of our sons will give us the strength to go on, in their spirit and heroism we will bring peace to our land and homes," Tichon said.

Both the Speaker and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu quoted David's elegy on the deaths of Saul and Jonathan: "How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war are lost!"

Netanyahu's speech also stressed the unity of the country in grief and the need to go on.

"We are still in shock from the blow we were dealt in which our national pain can be felt as private pain. We can't for a moment divert our attention from the pain of the bereaved families.

"But even in this difficult hour, we must make that most difficult effort to overcome the grief and tell the bereaved families that their dear ones did not fall in vain. That they, like their brave comrades in self-sacrifice and risk-taking, are that essential ongoing layer of sorrow, pain and suffering in the building that is the revival of our people in its land.

"The band of fighters who fell in the heavy disaster came from all over the country and from all sectors of the population. They signify the deep unity of the Israel Defense Force, which is the people's army in the best sense of the word. Our faith is placed in this army that we shall overcome the obstacles in our way. Our faith in it and our faith in the Rock of Israel, they are what will give us the strength — us and the families of the fallen — to know how to overcome the deep pain and lead the State of Israel safely to a haven

of peace and security." Labor MK Ehud Barak, a former chief of general staff, spoke on behalf of the opposition, in the absence of Labor leader Shimon Peres who is on a European visit.

His voice choking with emotion, Barak also said that all political arguments cease in such terrible moments. "A sleepless night was spent by all of the House of Israel," he said. "The thought of

what passed through the minds of the combat pilots in the last two or three seconds of their lives is blood-chilling: the thought of the thousands of families who knew their sons were in Lebanon and

waited for the sound of the phone ringing to save them or the knock on the door after which the house would be destroyed — these thoughts send nightmarish chills down the spine and the heart

breaks and bleeds.

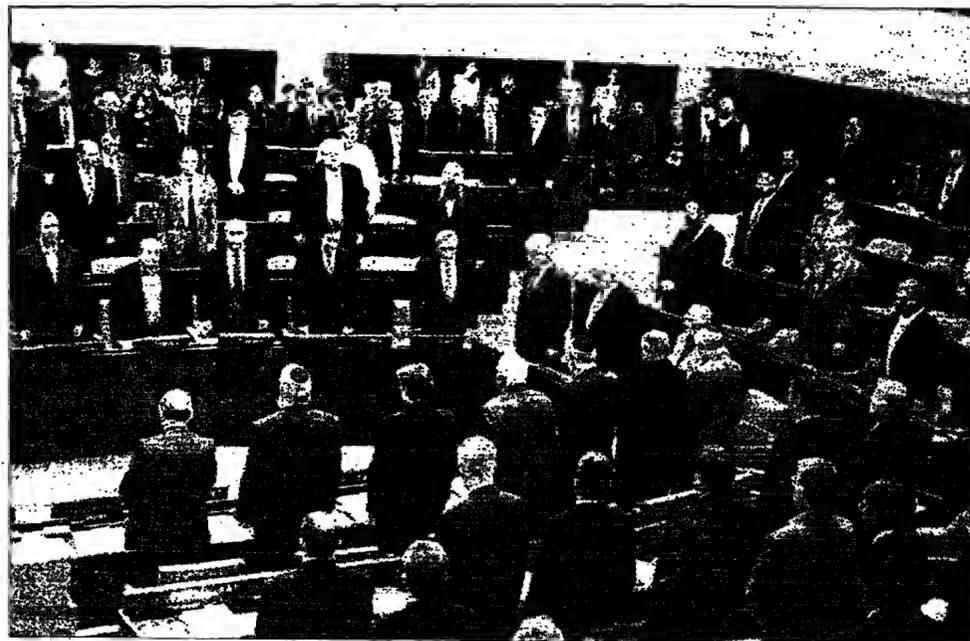
"In this bitter hour for the IDF and State of Israel all disputes cease: there is no Left and no Right. There is no coalition and no opposition. In this bitter hour we are all the IDF and all of us are the State of Israel...."

"On this day, I want to offer my hand and shoulder to my friends the defense minister, chief of general staff, and IAF commander, experienced in battles, who last night spent some of the worst moments of their lives.

"This is a moment of shattering pain but it is also a test, a test of our endurance. The shocking images of the sleepless night and the pain cannot blur the [fundamental] truths of our lives.... The struggle for our very right to live here in peace and security will be determined by our endurance, firmness and strength to continue not just in moments of success but also in difficult moments like these."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was the last person to address the Knesset, and also called for unity. He described the disaster as the worst known to the IDF and said the victims "were the best of the boys in this good land. The security establishment and the Israel Defense Forces cry for their deaths and lower their heads in memory."

The Knesset was closed immediately after the short memorial session to allow MKs to participate in the funerals. Before the plenum session, the Knesset presidium met to assign MKs to attend all the funerals and ensure no soldier was buried without a representative of the House to mourn him.



MKs stand during a moment of silence at yesterday's special Knesset memorial session on the helicopter disaster. (Naor Hara)

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

# THE NATION MOURNS



## She'ar Yashuv awakens to stark reality

By DAVID RUDGE

Residents of Moshav She'ar Yashuv awoke yesterday morning to the reality that the disaster that descended on them around dusk on Tuesday was not a nightmare. Daylight revealed in stark detail the extent of the tragedy — the blackened ruins of the guest house, the scattered remains of the CH-53 transport helicopter and the signs of the nighttime rescue attempts.

"We are all in a state of shock here," said Hananiya Malka, who was the first of the residents to reach the scene after the helicopter crashed into the four empty guest houses on the moshav shortly after 7 p.m.

The crash site was still sealed off in the morning as IDF body identification units continued their work to enable those killed to be buried as quickly as possible.

Some of the residents watched others tried to go about their daily lives. Nobody from the moshav was injured in the accident, but all felt the tragedy that literally crashed into their lives out of the sky.

"It's such a disaster... All of the moshav is in mourning," Hananiya said. "I didn't try to help today because there are so many professionals doing their jobs there that I knew if I tried I would only get in their way and disturb them."

The professionals included members of the board of inquiry, headed by former OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. (Res.) David Ivry, appointed to investigate the tragedy.

Members of the board of inquiry visited the sites where the helicopters fell to closely examine the wreckage in the initial stages of



Former OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. (res.) David Ivry (wearing sunglasses), who is heading the inquiry on the crash, and other commission members inspect the wreckage at Moshav She'ar Yashuv yesterday.

trying to determine whether the disaster was caused by a collision between the two helicopters. Initial findings, coupled with

eyewitness accounts, indicated that the tail of the lead helicopter was struck by the one behind causing one to literally fall like a stone,

while the other continued to stay airborne for a while, before crashing. Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu also visited She'ar Yashuv yesterday and spent a long time at the scene surveying the remains of the guest house and the

helicopter, parts of which were spread over 150 meters.

"I came here to receive an update in the field from [OC Northern Command] Maj.-Gen. [Amiram] Levine and Brig.-Gen. Yom-Tov [Samia]. Netanyahu told reporters at the scene. "The details are still being gathered and at the moment it still cannot be said with certainty what exactly happened."

"I'm sure that the inquiry committee will carry out its task quickly, but thoroughly. It's clear that what happened here was a terrible disaster. It could have been even worse disaster if the helicopters had crashed on occupied homes," Netanyahu said.

"I believe that we will know what happened here and that we will also know how to prevent any disasters like this in the future."

"We strengthen the IDF and we will do everything in our power in order to minimize the dangers which could occur."

Netanyahu expressed his own heartache over the disaster and said he concurred with a comment made by Levine that it took Hizbullah three years to inflict on the IDF the number of fatalities that had occurred in the accident in a few seconds.

Teams of IDF sappers and salvage crews worked throughout the day to identify shattered parts of the wrecked helicopter amid the debris of the burned-out buildings, the weapons of the soldiers, including their broken rifles, and the remains of bodies. Ironically

some of the soldiers' personal belongings, including food packages brought with them from home, remained intact.

For moshav residents, some of whom had left their homes when they heard the explosion and saw the flames and then walked literally into bodies of soldiers on the ground, the trauma of the night will remain with them for a long time.

Yitzhak Eli, outgoing head of the Mevot Hermon Regional Council, said special teams of counsellors and psychologists had gone to schools and kindergartens to help the children cope with the shock and trauma.

"Symbolically, perhaps, there are 73 families on the moshav, which is the same number as those killed in the disaster."

"We found, after checking everything, that there had been many children at home on their own because their parents had not returned from work. Some of them are in deep shock after the trauma they have gone through. We also found some older people, including elderly, some of them invalids — such as one old woman who found the body of a soldier near her door."

"But there was something else that for all of us here has added to the scope and depth of the disaster. We discovered that one of those killed is a member of one of the moshavs in our small regional council area — [Sgt. Tomer Goldberg], the son of David and Tamar Goldberg of Moshav Dishon," Eli said.

The moshav itself is quite far from She'ar Yashuv but many of the residents know one another.

"We have been hit twice by the hand of fate in the space of one night. Once as being part of the country and the other as being part of the people," Eli said.

## Hizbullah celebrates crash

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah activists celebrated in the streets yesterday and on Tuesday night over the deaths of the 73 IDF soldiers in the helicopter collision.

News agency reports said activists from the organization fired shots in the air for over half an hour on Tuesday night in Ba'albeck, one of the main strongholds of the extremist Shi'ite organization.

There were also reports that news of the crash was broadcast over loudspeakers from the minarets of mosques in areas of south Lebanon under Hizbullah's control.

Moslems on Tuesday night marked Al-Kadr, one of the holiest nights in the Islamic calendar, when the prayers of believers are supposedly answered.

Hizbullah issued a statement, broadcast on its Nur

radio station and Manar television station, saying the deaths of so many soldiers, who were en route to positions in the security zone, was "proof that Allah has answered our prayers."

The organization also quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that the IDF soldiers had been going to carry out special operational missions in south Lebanon.

Hizbullah said the fact that there were so many explosives aboard the helicopters and that 13 officers were among the fatalities was proof that the IDF troops had intended to carry out special missions.

"The curse of Lebanon is following the Israelis on the ground and in the air," the organization said. Iran, Hizbullah's mentor and main supplier of arms, equipment and money, also praised the disaster.

## Condolences from around the world

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

President Bill Clinton telephoned Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday to express condolences. White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn said Clinton called Netanyahu from Air Force One as he flew from Washington for a visit to Georgia. They spoke for about five minutes.

"He just wanted to express his condolences on the helicopter crash yesterday. He feels for him and was thinking about him," Glynn said. Netanyahu is to visit Washington on February 13. Glynn said the president's call was strictly a condolence message.

Dozens of condolence messages were sent to Foreign Minister David Levy from his counterparts in the US, Canada, Norway, Cyprus, Thailand, Germany, France, and Belgium. Messages were also sent from ambassadors here including those from Holland, on behalf of the European Union; Russia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and Uruguay.

## Bezeq helps nation get in touch

By JUDY SEGEL

Speedy logistical planning at Bezeq prevented the breakdown of telephone switching systems due to massive calling by families worried about soldiers in the North.

The telecommunications company reported yesterday that within seconds of the first broadcast of IDF information numbers, 90,000 calls were made to the IDF switchboard.

The military's decision to allow the news of the crash to be broadcast before families of the victims

were notified put much pressure on Bezeq infrastructure.

Bezeq said that it sent four mobile satellite communications units to the She'ar Yashuv area to provide services to local and foreign TV teams. The 144 telephone information service boosted its manpower so that all soldiers could call home free from any location.

Free phones were set up at the Tel Aviv municipal funeral parlor on instructions from Bezeq Director-General Yitzhak Kaul.

## Jury finds O.J. responsible for deaths

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — In a case that riveted Americans and split them along racial lines, a civil jury decided that ex-football star O.J. Simpson was responsible for the slaying deaths of his ex-wife and her friend.

In a hot, stuffy courtroom full of reporters, police and family members, a jury slapped Simpson with an \$8.5 million judgment Tuesday night, deducing that he was liable for the slayings of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman the night of June 12, 1994.

The mostly white jury's verdict snatched away some of the vindication Simpson claimed when he was acquitted of murder by a predominantly black jury in October 1995. That televised murder trial divided America over issues of police racism, domestic violence and the quality of justice.

Simpson, a former professional football star and Hollywood celebrity, is black, and the victims were white.

The verdict came just as President Clinton wrapped up his annual State of the Union address in Washington, allowing television networks to switch quickly to the courthouse for the highly anticipated verdict.

Later, Clinton said: "We have to respect the jury verdicts

that Americans bring in a situation like this." Reaction to the jury's decision was again influenced by race, only this time whites cheered and blacks denounced the verdict.

A nationwide telephone poll of 663 people taken immediately after the verdict by ABC television found that of 66 percent who agreed with the verdict, 74% were white and 23% black. The poll had a margin of error of 5 percentage points.

"They feel that they didn't get him the first time so they got him the second," said Leon Burton, a 37-year-old black minister in the impoverished South Central district of Los Angeles.

In the wealthy Brentwood district at the Mezzaluna restaurant, where Goldman worked and where Ms. Simpson ate her last meal, stockbroker Vera Kaprielian summed up much of the white reaction: "It should have happened the first time." The jury was forced to start deliberations anew last Friday after the panel's sole black juror was removed for misconduct.

The jury's decision was unanimous — 12-0 on the eight questions they had to decide in the four-month trial, which was not televised but the subject of extensive daily media reports.

The jury found that Simpson caused the deaths with mal-

ice and oppression. In the second phase of the trial, the jury decides on punitive damages to be awarded to the plaintiffs from Simpson's assets. The panel returns today for a hearing on Simpson's financial status.

The verdict came 2 1/2 years after the slayings. Victims' relatives expressed their relief when the verdict was announced.

Shouts of "Yes!" rose in the courtroom as the decision was read. Afterward, the victims' sobbing relatives hugged each other and their lawyers.

"We finally have justice for Ron and Nicole," said Fred Goldman, the aggrieved father who doggedly pursued Simpson to civil court.

As the verdict was read, the 49-year-old Simpson stared straight ahead, as one of his lawyers gently patted his back. Outside the building, a crowd estimated by police at 2,000 gathered and chanted "Killer, killer, killer" before Simpson emerged to a mixture of boos and cheers.

On his way home, he dashed into an ice cream shop to buy a cup of chocolate cookie dough ice cream for his 11-year-old daughter, Sydney.

The \$8.5m. represented the value of Goldman's funeral and the loss of his companionship to his parents. Ms. Simpson's family did not seek compensatory damages.

## Clinton: Make US's classrooms 'the envy of the world'

By TERENCE HUNT

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, declaring that Americans "want us to be partners, not partisans," challenged Congress in his State of the Union address Tuesday night to give the nation's schools a big spending increase while balancing the national budget by 2002.

Clinton identified education as the top priority of his second term and said he wanted to make America's classrooms "the envy of the world." He challenged communities to measure their students against national standards to lift achievement in math and science.

The president also reiterated his major foreign policy goals, including NATO expansion by 1999, a deeper dialogue with China including an exchange of presidential visits, expansion of exports, pursuit of peace in the Mideast and elsewhere, ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention as a step against terrorism, and maintenance of a strong military.

Senate Republican Majority Leader Trent Lott said Clinton "took a good first step toward cooperation," but he added, "Words are nice. We're waiting for the deeds." In the official Republican response,

only black Republican in Congress, struck the traditional Republican themes of returning power to local communities, family values and balancing the federal budget.

Clinton's speech ended just as a jury was reading verdicts in a civil lawsuit against sports figure O.J. Simpson in Santa Monica, California, finding him responsible for the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, with a damage award of \$8.5 million. Even before the standing ovation for Clinton faded and before the

start of the Republican response, major TV networks cut away to reports on the verdict against Simpson, who had been acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial.

The State of the Union, mandated in the US Constitution, is the president's opportunity to lay out before a gathering of the House and Senate "measures he shall judge necessary and expedient." Traditionally, it sets the president's agenda for the year on a broad range of domestic and international issues.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe's office said he had appointed Jean Matteoli, 74, current head of France's Economic and Social Council, a prestigious state advisory body.

Matteoli, a non-Jew, was arrested by Nazi police in April 1944 as a member of a Resistance group coordinating secret flights by Allied aircraft parachuting agents and equipment into occupied France. He was sent to the Neungamme concentration camp and later to Bergen-Belsen.

Juppe created the commission following calls for the government to clarify the status of an unknown amount of property never returned to its rightful owners after the war, mostly because they were killed in gas chambers. Some 76,000 Jews of the 320,000 then in France were sent to Nazi concentration camps, including 11,000 children. Only about 2,800 of those deported survived.

also deported, most of them for Resistance activity. Although they were not sent to extermination camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau, nearly half of them died from ill-treatment.

The commission will probe the scope of seizures by the Nazis and their Vichy French collaborators from 1940 to 1944.

Targets of the study in France include the city of Paris, following publication of a book which said the capital in 1944 may have taken over hundreds of flats left vacant by Jews killed in concentration camps.

A government body also recently determined that 1,995 works of art, possibly seized from Jews, were still "provisionally" in care of French museums more than 50 years after the war.

A state-controlled bank, which after the war returned goods it had received from Vichy, said this week it would investigate the fate of cash and valuables seized from Jews at the time of their arrest for subsequent deportation.

"This affair not only deals with reparations for the victims, it also has to do with the image that France has of itself," wrote Le

## France names camp survivor to Jewish assets probe

PARIS (Reuters) — France yesterday appointed a senior civil servant and survivor of Nazi concentration camps as head of a commission to probe the fate of Jewish property seized during the World War II German occupation.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe's office said he had appointed Jean Matteoli, 74, current head of France's Economic and Social Council, a prestigious state advisory body.

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## WORLD

in brief

### Nine massacred in southern Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — An armed group slit the throats of nine family members in a small village south of the capital, local residents reported yesterday, part of a wave of attacks marking the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The victims, mostly women and children, were slain overnight Monday by a group of around 20 attackers in Benchikao 100 km. south of Algiers, the witnesses said.

It was the latest incident in nearly four weeks of bloody violence blamed on Islamic insurgency that has left about 350 people dead and 700 injured.

Meanwhile, a parking ban on the main boulevards of Algiers went into effect yesterday in an effort to head off new car bombings. "The deterioration of the security situation is the principal reason for these measures, which will be further reinforced," said Cherif Rahmani, the government minister in charge of the capital.

### Communists to create red page on Internet

MOSCOW (AP) — Coming soon to a Web site near you: the hammer and sickle.

The Russian Communist Party, long accused by their opponents of being stuck in a nostalgic vision of the past, are planning to create their own page on the Internet, a party spokeswoman said yesterday.

The Communist home page will be used to publicize the party's ideology and political actions, said Irina Makaveyeva, spokeswoman for the Communist faction in parliament.

According to the Moscow News weekly, the party's leaders have proposed that the page feature the Communist hammer-and-sickle logo, its party platform and pictures and biographies of its top officials. "The Communist Party is showing an ability to adapt, albeit superficially, to the changing world," the newspaper wrote.

### Cosby hires private investigator

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bill Cosby has hired a highly respected entertainment investigator to monitor developments in the hunt for his son's killer, a source close to the Cosby family said.

Gavin DeBecker, a security consultant who specializes in stalking, safety and domestic violence, was called in shortly after Ennis Cosby, 27, was shot to death January 16, a source close to the Cosbys told The Associated Press.

"He's on board," said the source, adding that DeBecker was hired to "help the family get a better understanding to what the LAPD is doing."

DeBecker's hiring does not reflect the Cosbys' unhappiness with police because of the lack of an arrest in the case, the source said.

### Elizabeth Taylor has benign brain tumor

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, beset with health and personal problems in recent years, has been diagnosed with a benign brain tumor, her publicist said on Tuesday.

The tumor will be surgically removed at an undisclosed location on February 17, and Taylor is expected to "recover fully and without complications," her publicist said in a statement.

The surgery will take place 10 days before she turns 65, and the day after the taping of an AIDS fundraiser celebrating her birthday. During the operation a "benign mass" will be removed from the lining of Taylor's left frontal lobe. It was found during her annual check-up on Monday.

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## A constant vigil

Since before its founding, our nation has been forced to bear the painful burden of going to battle and maintaining a constant military vigil for the sake of preserving its security and very existence. The defense burden is borne by the best of the sons and daughters of the nation, who are called upon to face every danger selflessly and be prepared to sacrifice their lives. Even as we send our diplomats to seek peace, we must also send our soldiers to defend a nation fated to live by its sword.

This has shaped every aspect of Israeli life. When, as yesterday, the country comes together in mourning, it strikes all of us to the depths of our hearts. As we watch the funeral processions, we all sense how closely our fates are bound up with one another.

The government's decision to call for an official national day of mourning following Tuesday's tragic helicopter collision, was a wise one, in line with the Jewish tradition that the community shares its times of joy and its times of sadness. As on Memorial Day and Tisha Be'Av, television and radio broadcasts were devoted to reporting on the tragedy. Public entertainment events, including cinemas and theaters, were cancelled. Prime Minister Netanyahu set a personal example, cancelling meetings he had scheduled with King Hussein and Yasser Arafat, and calling on all Knesset members to attend funerals. The families who lost their loved ones in the IDF's worst accident in its history were not alone.

Unfortunately, appropriate behavior was not exhibited by all of the nation's leadership. The leader of the opposition, former prime minister Shimon Peres, chose to exploit the opportunity to score partisan political points. In very poor taste, Peres, speaking from Switzerland where he was attending the Davos economic forum, called for an end to Israel's involvement in Lebanon shortly after the first reports of the disaster were broadcast. Although the question of the extent of Israel's stationing of troops in Lebanon is one that is worthy of serious discussion, waiting until a decent interval has passed is the least that should be expected from a man of Peres' position. MK Ehud Barak struck a more appropriate tone, stating that "at this bitter hour there is no Right wing or Left wing, no opposition or coalition."

The two television channels also acted inappropriately at times. One would expect that the television news staffs, with their long experience covering national tragedies, would by now know that once the facts regarding what has occurred have been broadcast, viewers need

time to digest what has happened. But the television channels — almost as a reflex — immediately turned their microphones over to politicians. The politicians, in turn, rambled on and on about subjects of which they know little. It would behoove the two television channels to establish clear guidelines regarding the content of broadcasts at times of national disaster and to seek ways in which they can be of maximal service to their viewers at difficult times.

As usual following an IDF accident, a commission of inquiry has been established to study the causes of the disaster and recommend methods of avoiding a repetition of tragedy. This time the right decision was taken to appoint an independent commission, rather than an internal IDF body. The commission is staffed by professionals, including a pilot, a paratrooper and a retired judge. It is headed by former Air Force commander David Ivry, who brings to the post his vast experience and unimpeachable reputation. The selection of such a commission should ensure that no charges of IDF cover-ups will be raised by grieving parents, as has unfortunately occurred frequently following recent military accidents.

The commission does not face an easy task. Ironically, the decision to fly elite fighters to and from Lebanon by helicopter was taken for safety reasons — IDF commanders reasoned that the soldiers would be better protected in helicopters than in motorized convoys open to Hizbullah attacks. The commission must study a number of difficult questions. Among them: given the heavy fog and bad weather conditions, could the flights have been delayed until conditions were safer? The flight plans will have to be studied carefully, to check that all safety precautions were implemented and whether the pilots were in good health and alert when they set out. The extent to which soldiers and ammunition were crowded into the helicopters is an additional issue.

If radar, flight control or other technical malfunction occurred, steps will have to be proposed to avoid them in the future. What is termed human error cannot be ruled out, of course, which implies that the training courses of pilots may need to be adjusted to reduce as much as possible the chances of future collision of helicopters flying in formation.

With all the pain and heaviness of heart involved, the IDF will continue ferrying soldiers to the nation's borders. We all hope for the best for those soldiers, extend our condolences to the bereaved families, and wish the IDF and the nation the fortitude to carry on, as we must.



OLEG 97

## Price of Israel's defense

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

The disaster in which two helicopters collided over Moshav She'ar Yashuv in the Galilee Panhandle on Tuesday evening has been brought home dramatically to Israelis since then. The army allowed the media — television, radio and the press — every facility to record and broadcast every visible detail.

As the nation mourned what most people saw mainly on their TV sets, other tragic accidents in the nation's past inevitably came to mind.

The number of dead in many other disasters that occurred in the air, on land and at sea may have been smaller than the 73 soldiers who died in this week's accident, but the pain and grief were no less than what we feel today.

We are a small people, and every individual casualty is a cause for national mourning. The sanctity of human life has always been an intrinsic part of the Jewish tradition.

But where helicopters are concerned, there is one major difference from the past. Today's models are larger than they ever were, purposely designed to carry more soldiers than they ever did. Thus if anything goes wrong, the consequences are far graver, as we saw on Tuesday night.

During the first 30 years of the state, there was a rather different attitude from the total openness to the media we witnessed following this week's accident. In fact, a deliberate policy existed of not telling the public anything very much. Details of military disasters were restricted to the publication of casualty lists.

This wasn't because it was felt that the country's citizens could not be trusted to cope with disaster, simply that the army and government did not want to risk the enemy finding out about such incidents.

This concept stemmed from the fact that Israel's armed forces were small compared to those of their enemies.

Security experts here, like the British at the beginning of World War II, feared that publicizing

details of army losses would imply the operating failure of the units involved to the enemy.

An example of Israel secrecy surrounding such incidents occurred during the Sinai campaign in November 1956, when Israeli tanks failed to recognize their own forces, and fierce fighting broke out between two Israeli columns, causing many casualties.

LARGE numbers of casualties in a single mishap are not new in other branches of our armed forces, particularly in the navy. Forty-seven sailors died when the destroyer Eilat was struck by an Egyptian missile fired after the cease-fire with Egypt in October 1967.

And 69 crew members of the Dakar submarine perished when it vanished while crossing the Mediterranean toward Israel in January 1969. The Dakar has never been located, and the search for the vessel continues to this day.

Nor must it be forgotten that it isn't only young soldiers who have died in accidents. In January 1994, General Nehemia Tamari, OC Central Command, died with three passengers when his helicopter crashed.

One of the greatest lessons from such bitter moments was learned on May 10, 1977, when a Yasur helicopter crashed near Jericho, killing the 54 soldiers aboard.

The incident occurred seven days before the election, and neither Menachem Begin nor Shimon Peres pulled any punches as they sought victory at the polls. To both men's credit, neither they nor anyone in their parties tried to make political capital out of the accident.

This show of unity in the face of temptation to point the finger is a fine example of the way politicians should behave at a time of national grief.

At least 1,000 Israeli soldiers have died in or near Lebanon protecting Israel from its enemies.

With the fate of our northern border and the Golan in the balance, the courage and sacrifice of these young warriors should be inscribed in the annals of the nation in letters of gold.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

THAT'S WHY I was so shocked at seeing the same footage of ghoulish pyrotechnics, again and again and again, as though the event were some frightful parody of an Independence Day celebration instead of a series of explosions that burned soldiers to death.

That's why I couldn't bear the

close-up: a soldier's kit bag, his name clearly visible; rescue crews removing what seemed to be a soldier's remains; a bloody, shrouded corpse lifted onto a stretcher; bodies, partially unclothed, lined up in a row.

That parents might discover in this way that their son had died in the inferno is a horror beyond contemplating.

But one didn't need to be a parent to cringe at this obscene, unnecessary display. It was a shocking invasion of the privacy of the dead, a totally inappropriate response, continued the following morning in the photos that appeared in the press.

We're just following the norms set

sible to hide the truth when disaster struck. This led to the "open policy" which showed us the damage of Tuesday's tragedy in all its brutal, heart-wrenching detail.

That was when they heard the big boom. But it put no idea of tragedy in her head. She figured it had to be an illumination flare.

She saw nothing else till she got home. Then she saw the fire that obviously wasn't a flare rising high over She'ar Yashuv. "And then..." Her expression said everything words couldn't.

As I said, I don't really know where She'ar Yashuv is. But I do know what 73 soldiers mean.

They were people like me, like my friends — maybe a little younger. They only wanted to finish their army service and have a life. It wasn't that much to ask for. They didn't get it.

In front of the TV Tuesday night, I suddenly froze. I knew someone up in Lebanon. Efraim.

Should I call his parents? No. They still hadn't informed all the families. I decided I would call them in the morning. What could I say to them before?

I couldn't even pray for those 73 to be alright. The reports said no survivors, and praying in vain

is forbidden. Nothing could ever bring them back.

My two roommates usually never shut up and were never in the army. Yet there we all were Tuesday night, sitting opposite the TV like it was *Star Trek* or something, immobile with concentration.

An hour went by without anyone saying a word.

Shocked, we just repeated the numbers, looked at each other, and tried to feel something other than numb.

I RECALLED a Bible story we learned in elementary school, about how 36 soldiers in Joshua's army were killed at a place called Ai, east of Beit El.

"It was a great day of mourning for Israel," my teacher said. "Why?" I asked. I couldn't really understand.

Even then I was a great newspaper reader, and too many mornings over breakfast I would see the statistics — multiple deaths in plane crashes, mass fatalities in mudslides, scores killed in train wrecks. It was difficult to relate to them.

It's hard to mourn a number, my teacher explained. But that number is one person, and another, and another, all added together — people, with pasts and presents, but suddenly no future.

When one life is destroyed, it is like the destruction of an entire world, my teacher paraphrased from the Talmud.

Seventy-three is one, plus one, plus one — on and on, and on... And each of those "ones" represents a person with a whole network of family, someone who had friends, a girlfriend (or hopes of one), a person with dreams, with plans.

Around each one, now, that whole spiraling network has suddenly been left with a hole at its center, a rending that will never be sewn up, like the rending the families are tearing in their garments.

Joshua's soldiers were killed by the Canaanite enemy; ours by a horrible error of machine, or man. Seventy-three is almost exactly twice 36. It's hard to take in a number, to feel anything but a rather detached sort of shock. A number is abstract, and one reacts to it with one's mind, not one's heart.

But 73 worlds, 73 futures reduced to ashes — the screaming tragedy of each lost one rips you apart.

It would have been far more humane, and more informative, to limit the footage, can the babble and present quarter-hourly updates, with dignified quiet in between.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

## Lost worlds

SHAWN ZELIG ASTER

'She'ar Yashuv is quiet at last," I heard them say on TV at 11 o'clock on Tuesday night, four hours after two army helicopters collided over the moshav. "There are no ambulances there anymore."

Now I'm not sure exactly where She'ar Yashuv is. I've never been there.

But I was in nearby Sde Nehemiah last summer. I took a bunch of French kids, student tourists, kayaking in the Jordan River. It starts near the kibbutz.

And suddenly the TV cameras were focusing on a woman, Ruti, from Sde Nehemiah. Her face creased with shock, she recounted how she had been walking home from the kibbutz dining hall with her daughter.

"Look," she told the little girl. "Look at the helicopters up there in the sky. The front one is flying without its lights on. The back one is following very close behind."

That was when they heard the big boom. But it put no idea of tragedy in her head. She figured it had to be an illumination flare.

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The writer is a doctoral student in Bible at Bar-Ilan University.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PASSIVE SMOKING

Sir, — I was astounded to read in *The Jerusalem Post* of January 27 a repetition of somebody's denial of all the proofs that passive smoking, also known as "involuntary smoking" or "enforced smoking," causes cancer and death. The mounting evidence was already concluded more than 10 years ago in the famous US Surgeon General's report for 1986, where he spoke at length about these lethal effects of passive smoking, and called upon all bodies and agencies to ensure a smoke-free environment in the workplace.

In 1991, an Australian court issued an injunction against certain publications of tobacco companies, which argued against the hazard of passive smoking. So this issue also passed the legal criteria and, moreover, passive smokers who were allergic to tobacco smoke won an injunction against this hazard already in 1977. Today, the pending issue is the proper compensation of

non-smokers who were exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace, prior to the existence of specific smoking bans. The lawsuit of the flight attendants therefore is now pending in Florida — and was already certified as a class action.

Recently, the Israeli Ministry of Transport requested that people who are interested in the issue of passive smoking on airplanes should write to a professional committee which had been appointed for this purpose. So, those who suffer from passive smoking on airplanes should write to the following address: Mr. Yo'av Livnah, Chairman, Professional Committee for Smoking on Airplanes, P.O. Box 8, Ben-Gurion Airport, 70100.

AMOS HAUSNER,  
Legal Counsel,  
Israel Forum for the  
Prevention of Smoking  
Jerusalem.

### REAL-ESTATE LAW

Sir, — Your headline "More Beduin removed from Ma'aleh Adumim" (January 28) is misleading. The Beduin are not in Ma'aleh Adumim but rather on land which the government believes it has a right to confiscate in order to expand Ma'aleh Adumim.

Having taught real-estate law in the US for a number of years, I am outraged at what is happening to the Jahalin Beduin. In short, I don't believe this could happen today in the US, and perhaps the US laws regarding adverse possession and eminent domain which protect an individual's right to property should be looked at if Israel considers itself a true democracy.

In the US, if an individual has lived on land in an open, notorious, hostile and continuous manner (uninterrupted for a number of years set by state law, sometimes 15 to 20 years), that individual can claim a right to the land through a process called adverse possession. Don't the Jahalin Beduin fit this criterion?

Additionally, under the laws of eminent domain, the government has a right to forcibly take property only if three conditions are satisfied. Firstly, the proposed use of the land must be declared by the court to be a public use (such as for roads or public utilities). It doesn't mean replacing one neighborhood or group of people with another. The second criterion is that just compensation must be paid to the owner. It is questionable if giving the Jahalin Beduin a piece of land close to a garbage dump is just compensation. The third condition is that the rights of the individual must be protected by due process of law. This is the sticky part. Apparently the Civil Administration in Israel doesn't believe that the Jahalin Beduin have right to "our" property.

ARLEEN KLINE  
Givatayim.

### SATIRE

Sir, — I read with interest Ephraim Kishon's article of January 8, "It's just a bad joke." Mr. Kishon's analysis that "the moment reality disappears from behind satire, it's not satire anymore, just plain vulgarity," is accurate both analytically and from the standpoint of the state of our media humor. What Mr. Kishon does not understand is the theater he sits in. It is the theater of the absurd where everything can be anything. For the public, laughter at vulgarity seems to be a palliative for nausea.

EDWARD STERN  
Kfar Blum.

### USELESS MUMBLINGS

Sir, — Yasser Arafat repeats non-stop that the state of Palestine will soon be established. The government of Israel must not sit idly by, helplessly awaiting the inevitable. The government must make it absolutely clear that Israel will in such case immediately incorporate Judea and Samaria — or at least those parts still under Israeli rule — into the State of Israel. Mere mumblings by the prime minister that he disapproves of, or will not tolerate, the creation of a Palestinian state, are worse than useless.

BEN SHUA  
Jerusalem.

### MERSEYSIDE IMMIGRANTS

Sir, — To mark the Golden Jubilee of Israel's Independence, I am writing a history of Zionism on Merseyside focusing on the significant contribution its *olim* and *olot* have made to the establishment and development of the State of Israel. I would be pleased to hear from any of your readers who come within this group.

DR. MERVYN GOODMAN,  
1 Hornby Lane,  
Liverpool L18 3HH

### WATER SHORTAGE

Sir, — Can anyone explain to me why, in view of the imminent drought we face, nothing is being done to implement a water-saving program now? Moderate water restrictions now may prevent full-scale rationing later.

Doesn't any government agency know, or care, about this crisis? We can pray for divine intervention, but isn't it sensible for us to do something?

RENA GORDON  
Jerusalem.

Blind dati  
While US crac  
mostly ignore  
Pennie  
fr

سازمان چاپ

DEAR RUTHIE

# Blind dating for real

By RUTHIE BLUM



**D**ear Ruthie, I've been divorced for three years, during which time I've played the dating scene - as hard as that was. I went on blind dates and even had an occasional fling with a married man.

But now I have met not a "blind" date, but a date who is blind. Literally. He is intelligent, attractive and kind. He really could be "Mr. Right," but I am concerned about how my two teenage children and my parents will take it. I also question whether I'll be able to handle it in the long run. I'm not used to being with a man who can only relate to who I am without knowing how I look. I know this stems from insecurity on my part, but I'm still worried. What advice can you give me?

Blind Dating

Somewhere in Israel  
Dear Blind Dating,  
First you must make a distinction between the different forms of anxiety you are experiencing; then try to examine them.

Regarding your children and parents: they will "take it" in the spirit in which it is presented. The larger your friend's blindness looms in your own eyes, the larger it will loom in those of others.

Regarding not being "seen" by your beau: chalking your ill ease up to insecurity is an oversimplification of a complex emotional confusion.

Apparently, the experience of being appreciated for your personality is new to you - or so you think. The irony is that our looks are just as shaped by our personality as our personality is shaped by our looks. Every person is a "sum of his parts." These parts are intertwined in such a way as to make it virtually impossible to examine each separately.

This is just as true of your boyfriend. His blindness is one integral part of the rest of him. Once you realize this, deciding about your ability to share a life with him will be no different from performing similar soul searching - regarding any man.

Dear Ruthie,

My wife passed away four years ago. I was devastated and for a long while very depressed. My son and his wife were always there for me. Though they many times offered to have me come and live with them in Ra'anana, I always refused, on the grounds that I could never feel really "at home" - especially if I was dependent on them.

A few weeks ago, my son proposed that I come and live in a senior citizens' residence not far away from him and his family. I am now considering this. The problem is that I would have to sell my apartment - the one I shared with my wife and in which our children were raised. I am afraid to do this, though I am tempted to live among other people my age. I am very lonely here by myself. But how can I preserve all of our family memories if I give away all of my wife's possessions and sell our home out from under myself?

Dear Anxious Senior,  
Family memories cannot be erased by moving to a new home. Memories are part of the internal world in which we live. Physical surroundings belong to the external world. Though your wife no longer lives in the external world, you still do. As such, decisions about your living arrangements should be given at least as much consideration as your memories.

Regarding "giving away all of your wife's possessions": if you give them to your children, not only will they remain in your memory but they will become integral to the physical surroundings of your extended family.

Where the sale of your apartment is concerned, you need not see such a step as "selling out from under yourself." Try viewing it, instead, as a real-estate transaction enabling you to upgrade your living conditions.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@post.co.il

# Portrait of a kibbutznik ...who's 105 years old

When the kibbutz idea was young, Moshe Kipnis was there, Dina Kraft reports



Moshe Kipnis, born in 1891, has been living on Kibbutz Deganya Alef for 76 years. (James Levine)

**H**e looks good for his age. Small in build, a fuzz of white hair covers his partially bald head. As he talks and listens his green eyes sparkle and widen. Wearing blue sweatpants, a T-shirt, and a striped terrycloth bib "in case his coffee spills," he strolls in with a smile, aided by a walker. His large hands shake and he doesn't hear so well. Lucid and full of humor, he doesn't look a day over 85. But Moshe Kipnis is 105, born in a small Ukrainian town in 1891. For the last 76 years Kibbutz Deganya Alef has been his home.

The tennis courts and manicured lawns which lie just beyond his room at the old-age home are a far cry from the original struggling kibbutz he first set eyes on so many decades ago. Kipnis has seen kibbutz history from its dawn to what is arguably its current twilight. He was the 30th member to join Deganya, the first kibbutz, and he is a vital piece of walking history - a living relic of the Second Aliya, a captain in World War I, and a veteran kibbutz member.

Kipnis remembers the days of the mythologized pioneers who came to "build and be rebuilt by" the land. He recalls the Zionist guru A.D. Gordon visiting the young Jewish men working on the road crews. He still grimaces at the memory of the ravages of malaria and the excruciating difficulty of physical labor in the fields under a blazing sun.

Kipnis witnessed first hand the brutally intense combination of philosophical vision and exhausting agricultural work of the early pioneers while teaching Hebrew to the recent arrivals at the Hashomer Hatzair community in Bitanya in the Jordan Valley in 1920. The commune was notorious in pre-state history for its fiercely ideological and often bizarre activities and its members, many of whom went on to play prominent roles in the country.

Kipnis is critical of their naive approach and exclusivity. "They were a special *havura*," Kipnis remembers. "They didn't want to mix with the other workers. They read Freud and Otto Weininger. You can say they were snobs. They acted as if they were superior, elite. I looked on them as children playing in politics. They were not yet ripe. They were admirable as pioneers on a special path, on ideals of equality."

But they remained children, even when they were themselves grandparents," he says harshly. (One of these "children" was the charismatic and controversial Meir Ya'ari, who reigned over Mapai with an iron grip as party secretary for 25 years.)

KIPNIS LEFT Bitanya to join Kibbutz Deganya in 1921. He credits the establishment of Deganya as the first kibbutz to the members' commitment to their land. While other groups wandered from one part of the country to another in

search of work, Deganya members settled and stayed. Early life on Deganya was spartan and practical. Kipnis recalls the stripped-down simplicity of his wedding to his Russian sweetheart for whom he had waited nine years to be reunited with in Palestine. "My love and I were presented with a hut without even a real roof and that was it. We had waited nine years for this!" he says, still exasperated at the memory. Shaking his head, he continues, "No ceremony - just the building of a tent. There wasn't even enough food in those early years to eat and celebrate."

"That was life," he says with a wistful finality. As for work relations between the sexes, he answers quickly that there was equality. However, he recalls just one man working in the kitchen as "the men were needed in the fields."

Kipnis, however, was one man who found himself incapable of enduring the physical strain of the back-breaking field work. He says, "When I started in the fields I didn't realize the toll taken by the blistering heat of the Jordan Valley. I could not go on."

However, he was drawn in by the caliber of the people at Deganya and decided to stay on at the kibbutz. He worked for many years as the kibbutz secretary and financial manager. He appreciated the directness and continuity of Deganya: "It was a place where talk was talk and things were real."

According to Kipnis, relations with neighboring Arabs were good. "We had quiet Arab neighbors. I went to a neighboring Arab village to buy produce without any fear. It was the educated Arabs from the city who realized that the Jewish presence was not a simple one. They understood the Zionist ambition."

As he discusses his early kibbutz days, Kipnis is visited by Benny Katznelson, a relative of Labor Zionist leader Berl Katznelson. His wife's family lives in Deganya and when visiting, he always makes sure to stop to chat with his friend.

Quickly they are engaged in an intellectual discussion of literature and early Zionist aristocratic role of

Palestine from the port of Brindisi. In Russia Kipnis had worked as a teacher and his plans were to continue his profession in Palestine, teaching Hebrew. He proudly describes himself as an autodidact. "I taught myself Hebrew while still in Russia," he says, grinning widely. Kipnis's studies for a teaching certificate in Jerusalem were interrupted by World War I.

The Turks expelled many Jews from Palestine, others fled. Kipnis was convinced it was important to stay. "My friends and I said, 'Don't run. Don't leave the country.'" Those men who remained soon found themselves in uniform. The Turkish Army gave the men a month to enlist.

Discussing World War I, Kipnis becomes animated. Waving his hands expressively he explains his role in the "Great War." In 1916 he was sent to Turkey where he was promptly made a captain.

HIS MANY years have not dulled a curiosity and interest for events and ideas both past and present. He talks as excitedly about the professions of grandchildren and great-grandchildren doing things "he cannot understand" as he does about his first night in Palestine back in 1913 at the Haim Bor Hotel in Jaffa, "where all the immigrants went," he says with a shrug.

He still remembers the thrill of his arrival on Shabbat afternoon, excitedly strolling down Rehov Herzl and Rehov Ahad Ha'am for the first time, running into friends from Russia.

Only a short time before, he had been released from the Russian army and swiftly made his plans to make aliya. As a teenager he had joined the General Zionist youth movement and decided his future was here.

He bid his good-byes to the religious home of his parents and took a train to Vienna. From there he would make his way to Italy and set sail for

THE SUN is beginning to set and the nurse at the old-age home looks at Kipnis, concerned that talking throughout the afternoon has made him weary. He, however, shows no signs of slowing down and bubbles over enthusiastically with stories.

He skips through the telling of his years and experiences with ease. He lurches forward in his chair and says he could go on talking forever. One starts to think he may, in fact, last forever.

Looking out the window to present-day Deganya, Kipnis says he welcomes the changes characterizing today's kibbutz, although he makes a plea not to change the essence of the spirit of group living.

Accepting that today many members of Deganya work outside the kibbutz, he hopes their common purpose as a community will keep them united. "You cannot stand on principle," says Kipnis. "The world is changing. It too does not stand in one place."

# While US cracks down, Europe mostly ignores smoking rules

**C**ome to Europe to see the sights. But be prepared to have cigarette smoke obscure your view, even of the "No Smoking" signs.

At that Left Bank cafe in Paris that serves succulent escargots and fine Burgundy wine, which should, according to law, have a no-smoking area - you will have to enjoy the meal amid the musty fumes of Gaulois cigarettes. And by the way, the French government owns part of the tobacco company.

Jaywalk in Germany, even when there is no traffic, and rules-conscious Germans are likely to holler at you.

But light up in a no-smoking area, and ... no problem. Not even policemen bat an eye.

While anti-tobacco regulations spread and grow together in the United States, much of Europe remains in the "Gray Ages." Anti-smoking laws - the few that are on the books - are often broken.

Europeans tend to ignore restrictions on relatively minor actions, such as lighting cigarettes, because they consider them infringements on individual rights, says Franco Ferrarotti, a sociology professor at Rome University. "Holding a cigarette has become a kind of way of asserting our individual independence," Ferrarotti said. "Europeans don't like to be told: 'Don't do this. Don't do that.'"

Italy's cabinet became so annoyed by the lack of compliance with no-smoking rules that when it banned smoking in private businesses serving the public early in 1996, it ordered government agencies to enforce existing prohibitions on smoking in government

offices and on public transportation.

To few people's surprise, that supposed crackdown has had little effect.

In fact, the new law is also widely ignored, with private businesses serving the public rarely enforcing the no-smoking edict.

Despite publicity campaigns against smoking and the introduction of anti-tobacco rules, there has been only a three-point drop in the proportion of smokers over the past decade in the European Union. Thirty-four percent of the people in the 15-nation bloc smoke, compared to 25 percent of Americans.

And the World Health Organization warns that tobacco use in central and eastern Europe is rising.

New legislation aimed at giving non-smokers some breathing room and at getting puffiers to quit is piling up across Europe. In 1996 alone, Norway required restaurants and bars to make one-third of their areas smoke-free. The country also extended a ban on tobacco advertising to include "sneak" advertising like ads for Camel and Marlboro boots, watches and other accessories.

In the same year, several airlines, including Swissair and Germany's Lufthansa, prohibited smoking on most or all flights within Europe. Augsburg Airways, a German airline, began offering passengers smokeless cigarettes as part of test-marketing by their US manufacturer, R.J. Reynolds. The jury is still out.

smoking rules are widely respected.

Many Finnish restaurants provide no-smoking areas even without rules requiring them.

But these countries are the exceptions, in part because Europeans inhale second-hand smoke without a fuss.

"I sympathize with the right of people to smoke," said Milagros Acevedo, a non-smoker sitting at a Madrid cafe as clouds of smoke wafted past.

Many Europeans believe Americans are extremists about banning smoking.

"They're going crazy over there," Ferrarotti said. "Once they tried to prohibit alcohol, which was maddening. Now they're going after tobacco."

Even some European anti-smoking activists feel things are out of hand in America. Pais Clemente, president of Portugal's Council on Smoking Abuse, complains about "the policies of other countries in which smokers are systematically persecuted and at times ostracized."

European smokers traveling to the US can find themselves in trouble even before they land. Last April, an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami was diverted to Boston after a Frenchman and his mother argued over an order for him to stop smoking. They were hauled off the plane and arrested.

The US, meanwhile, has exported its standards to the United Nations building in Geneva.

Under pressure from the US delegation, the UN increased no-smoking areas and relegated smokers at the snack bar to tables behind a strip of yellow tape. (AP)

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For forty-eight years, our readers' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukka time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers.

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**EYE ON THE MEDIA**

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Panel to probe pay for local authority officials

Treasury director of wages and labor agreements, Yossi Kucik, and senior representatives of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel have agreed to establish a joint committee to investigate discrepancies in pay for local authority officials.

This follows a series of accusations and counter-accusations following the publication of Kucik's report on public sector pay last month. *David Harris*

### Blitny posts rise in net profit

Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York (Blitny), completed the year with a rise in net profit to \$14.5 million from \$14m. in the corresponding period last year. In recent years the subsidiary has undergone efficiency measures, including the closure of unprofitable branches and a reduction in workers and other expenses.

At the end of last year, 331 people were employed with the bank, compared with 442 at the end of 1995. Shareholders equity increased to \$181.2m. from \$167.2m. Total assets fell to \$2 billion from \$2.1b. Bank Leumi Corporation, the parent company in the US, completed the year with a rise in net profit to \$12.1m. from \$300,000 in the previous year. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

### Frenkel to address Economic Forum

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will address the Economic Forum in Jerusalem on Sunday on the latest macro-economic trends and the development of the capital. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will also speak. *David Harris*

### Call to combine Fruit, Citrus Marketing boards

Israel Fruit Growers Association general secretary Ami Uriel is calling for the amalgamation of the Fruit Board and the Citrus Marketing Board. Uriel has asked Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan to consider the move. In Uriel's opinion, a joint body would be able to improve efficiency and reduce production and marketing costs. *David Harris*

### Alan Bond sentenced to four years in jail

Failed Australian entrepreneur Alan Bond was yesterday sentenced to four years in prison for his role in the biggest corporate fraud in Australian history worth A\$1.0 billion (US\$766 million).

But Bond could be released on parole from prison in 1998 after serving a minimum one-year non-parole period. Bond, 58, already serving a three-year sentence for an earlier fraud, pleaded guilty to two charges of dishonesty last December. Bond stood impassively in the Western Australia Supreme Court dock when the sentence was handed down.

Judge Michael Murray said the latest sentence was to be served concurrently with his present sentence, which would have seen him released in August 1997. *Reuters*

## COMPANY RESULTS

### Tecnomatix's net income up 78%

Tecnomatix Technologies Ltd. of Herzliya reported a 78 percent jump in net income last year to \$7.99 million from \$4.49m. in 1995. Revenues for the year were up 33% to \$44.53m. from \$33.38m. Fourth quarter net income was also up, increasing 68% to \$2.89m. from \$1.72m. in the same period last year. Revenues jumped 29% for the quarter to \$12.84m. from \$9.97m.

The company attributed the increase to the receipt of new and repeat orders. "We continued to experience a high level of repeat sales, including orders from British Aerospace, BMW, Fiat and Volvo," Harel Beit-On, CEO of the automated manufacturing systems company, said in a statement. "At the same time, we attracted new customers, particularly in the aerospace and heavy industries."

Tecnomatix develops computer-aided production engineering software which is used in the automotive, aerospace, heavy machinery and electronics industries. *Jennifer Friedman*

### Profits up 26% at British Sky Broadcasting

British Sky Broadcasting Plc said first-half profits rose 26% as it enlisted a record number of subscribers in its second quarter.

Pre-tax profit for the six months ending December 31 rose to £133.7 million, in line with expectations, as the UK satellite television broadcaster attracted 434,000 new customers. The second quarter growth takes the total subscribers past six million in the UK and Ireland.

The British consumer's desire to watch professional sports has driven Sky's growth.

More than four million pay for Sky's premium sports channels, which have exclusive rights to all live English and Scottish League football games, English cricket matches overseas, and all rugby matches in England. *Bloomberg*

Sky is 40% owned by News Corp. Ltd., the Australia-based media company controlled by Rupert Murdoch.

# PA blasts plan for Israeli industrial park near Gaza

By DAVID HARRIS

The permission granted for an industrial park on the Israeli side of the Gaza seam line was described yesterday as "alarming" by a senior Palestinian Authority economic official.

The National Planning and Construction Council has given its approval for a single industrial park to be built alongside the line in the area of Nahal Oz but has reaffirmed its earlier decision to refuse permission for similar schemes elsewhere along the seam.

The unilateral nature of the decision was condemned by Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) director-general Mohammed Shtayyeh.

PECDAR is concerned by the

general lack of consultation and cooperation between Israel and the PA in the planning of the parks in the Gaza area. "This should be coordinated with us so we can avoid duplication of industries," he said.

One of the problems with the plan is that it does not solve the issue of border crossings, which are sometimes prohibited and also time-consuming, Shtayyeh added.

The planning council's decision came after a request from Shai Herush, head of the Sbar Hanegev local council.

The original decision, passed last year and to apply for the next 10 years, was to prevent the creation of employment areas along the seam line but to encourage job creation schemes nearer to the larger cities.

Work on the Kami industrial

park on the Gaza side of the line is at an "advanced stage," Shtayyeh said. There are ongoing discussions over the provision of electricity and water with the National Infrastructure Ministry, with the full support of Minister Ariel Sharon.

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector branch of the World Bank, is in the process of granting loans to PADICO, the company charged with constructing the factories at Kami.

Funding for offsite infrastructure provisions is being provided by the World Bank and donor countries led by the US. "Things are going very well at Kami," said Shtayyeh.

In the West Bank, work is progressing, but at a slower rate, on two industrial parks at Mukeibila, north of Jenin and in Tulkarm.

The Mukeibila project has the backing of German investors, who have supplied technical knowhow and equipment to launch the park, which is owned by the chairman of the commercial Bank of Jordan Tawfik Fakhoury, originally from Jenin.

Negotiations are beginning with Israel for the provision of infrastructure services for the park.

The Tulkarm project is the least developed, with the land having so far only been purchased in part by a consortium of businessmen.

In the cases of all three parks, it will be undecided which industries will operate.

Meanwhile, Shtayyeh signed a contract on Tuesday for a \$35 million soft loan from the Arab Fund in Kuwait for improving health, education and roads infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank.

# Palestinians down to 0.7% of local workforce

By DAVID HARRIS

The number of Palestinians from the territories working in Israel dropped to 0.7 percent of the total workforce by June last year, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

This figure, registered at the height of the closure of the territories following the terrorist attacks in February and March, compares to 1.6% a year earlier and the recent high of 2.2% set in March 1994.

With the notable decrease in Palestinian workers from January 1994 until June 1996, there was also a sharp increase in the number of foreign (non-Palestinian) workers.

In early 1994, foreigners comprised 1.1% of the workforce, rising to 2.9% by June 1995 and reaching a peak of 3.8% last June.

There were some 81,000 foreign workers legally employed in the country as of last June, including both those from the territories and further afield.

The data only covers those foreign workers legally employed here, with a valid permit, and reporting to the National Insurance Institute through their employers.

These statistics do not take into account such employees as domestic staff, who are not considered as foreign workers.

More than 18,000 foreign workers were employed in the agriculture sector in the second quarter last year, 5,000 more than in the same period 12 months earlier and 3,400 higher than in the first quarter of 1996.

In the construction industry and other manpower agency work, there were 41,000 foreign workers last June, an 11,000 rise from the same time a year earlier, which in turn was 16,000 more than in June 1994.

Foreign workers, including Palestinians, comprised 4.5% of the overall workforce in June, the same as a year earlier, but compared to 3.3% in June 1994.

The number of Palestinians employed in agriculture decreased from 14% of the total in the first quarter of 1994 to 3% by June last year.

Meanwhile, the number of foreign workers in the sector rose from 7.5% to 25% during the same period.

Taking into account all foreign workers, including Palestinians, their proportion in agriculture increased from 22% in early 1994 to 28% by June 1996.

A similar picture is also painted in the construction industry, where the number of Palestinians decreased, in the same period, from 15% to 5%, with the foreign workforce increasing from 5.5% to 23.6%.

Taking the two groups together, they increased in number from 20% to 28% during the two-and-a-half-year period the research covers.

The survey comes at a time when there is increasing internal pressure on the government to reduce the number of foreign workers in the country from an estimated 200,000, including those here illegally.

At the same time there are calls from the Palestinian Authority to re-admit workers from the territories to jobs in Israel at the levels seen in the early 1990s, which were somewhere around the 120,000 mark.



### Albanian investment scheme crisis

A policeman guards a bank messenger holding a bag of money for distribution in a bank office from one of two frozen investment schemes in Tirana yesterday, while a man holds a receipt to receive partial refund of his investment. (AP)

## Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter to merge

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Morgan Stanley Group Inc and Dean Witter, Discover & Co said yesterday they had reached a definitive agreement to merge, creating a financial giant with a combined market capitalization of \$21 billion.

The deal creates a new company, which will be called Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co, with leading securities and credit services businesses.

The companies said their combined asset management operation will manage more than \$270b., the largest of any securities firm.

Under the merger pact - unanimously approved by the boards of both companies - Dean Witter will swap 1.65 shares for each Morgan Stanley share.

Dean Witter shareholders will own about 55 percent of the new company and Morgan Stanley holders about 45%.

The new company will have a 14-member board to which each firm will nominate seven members.

The merger will be accounted for as a tax-free pooling of interests.

The companies expect the merger to be accretive to earnings per share for the new company and expect to complete the deal in

mid-1997.

Dean Witter Chairman and Chief Executive Philip Purcell will serve as chairman and chief executive of the new company. John Mack, president of Morgan Stanley, will be president and chief operating officer of the new company.

Morgan Stanley Chairman Richard Fisher will be chairman of the new company's executive committee of the board of directors.

The firms did not say if any staff cuts were planned as a result of the merger, but they did say there was little overlap between Morgan Stanley's investment banking and institutional operations and Dean Witter's retail focus.

"This bold move will accelerate the ability of both companies to achieve our respective long-term strategic goals," Mack said in a statement.

"With little overlap between the two firms, there will be extraordinary new opportunities for our employees and customers as we create a uniquely integrated company."

In connection with the deal, the firms said they had granted each other options to acquire shares representing 19.9% ownership in each other.

## Apple unveils part of restructuring plan

SAN JOSE, California (AP) - Apple Computer Inc. outlined part of its latest restructuring plan, a corporate reshuffle intended to let the troubled computer pioneer focus on its strengths.

But Apple would not disclose how many employees would lose their jobs as it tries to stem a stubborn flood of red ink.

Executives said that and other details of its reorganization were still being worked out and wouldn't be announced for another month.

The company previously said that layoffs would be part of its makeover. Industry analysts have expected cuts of up to 3,000, or a fifth of Apple's work force.

Apple also has not yet decided whether to shed or scale back on such money-losing businesses as its Newton hand-held computer and Pippin, a combination game player and Internet surfer being sold in Japan.

In its second structural shakeup within a year, Apple is consolidating its product development, marketing, sales and operations. Previously Apple's business units resembled separate companies with their own marketing and technology activities.

Meanwhile, Apple's new sales division will emphasize the consumer, publishing and education markets, areas in which Apple remains strong despite its declining overall market share.

"All in all, I think the organization allows us to put greater focus in the markets and solutions where we have our greatest strengths," said George Scalis, Apple's chief administrative officer and head of the new operations division.

Apple also said that co-founder Steve Wozniak would return as an adviser to chairman and chief executive officer Gil Amelio, a position already held by Apple's other co-founder, Steve Jobs.

As advisers, both are part of the company's decision-making executive committee.

Wozniak and Jobs, who built the first Apple computer in a garage, both quit Apple in 1985. Jobs returned to Apple following its

purchase of his Next Software Inc.; Wozniak is back in part because he teaches children about computers, Apple said.

The announcement of its latest makeover came on the eve of Apple's annual shareholders meeting. It also occurred almost exactly a year after Amelio took charge of the company. At the time, Apple was battered by financial losses and falling market share - problems still plaguing the company.

Amelio took the company through a restructuring that included 1,500 job cuts. After several money-losing quarters, Apple made a surprise \$25 million profit last summer - only to be hammered with a \$120m. loss in the October-December period because of slow sales and subsequent price cuts.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep.	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.70	5.00	5.75		
U.S. dollar	4.70	5.00	5.75		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.00	4.50		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.925	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.2.97)					
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.5985	3.5548	—	—	3.8227
U.S. dollar	3.2875	3.2408	3.23	3.28	3.3220
German mark	1.9950	2.0282	1.96	2.06	2.0113
Pound sterling	5.3226	5.4187	5.24	5.50	5.4008
Japanese yen (100)	0.5904	0.6000	0.58	0.61	0.5951
Dutch florin	2.6550	2.7081	2.62	2.75	2.6908
Swiss franc	1.7789	1.8058	1.74	1.84	1.7913
French franc	2.3001	2.3372	2.27	2.37	2.3183
Swedish krona	0.4483	0.4535	0.43	0.46	0.4492
Norwegian krona	0.5388	0.5161	0.50	0.53	0.5142
Denish krone	0.5234	0.5218	0.55	0.70	0.6761
Finnish mark	0.6703	0.6812	0.51	0.54	0.5273
Canadian dollar	2.4456	2.4851	2.40	2.52	2.4707
Australian dollar	2.5032	2.5435	2.48	2.56	2.5272
S. African rand	0.7314	0.7432	0.68	0.75	0.7403
Belgian franc (10)	2.0226	2.0589	1.98	2.09	2.0407
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8360	2.8818	2.85	3.00	2.9748
Italian lira (1,000)	0.9400	0.9532	0.95	1.02	0.9836
Jordanian dinar	4.5700	4.6800	4.57	4.88	4.7172
Egyptian pound	3.8868	3.9280	3.94	4.02	3.9182
ECU	5.2485	5.3332	5.15	5.41	5.3588
Irish punt	2.3581	2.3982	2.31	2.43	2.3818
Spanish peseta (100)					

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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# SPORTS

in brief

## Lions re-sign Mitchell

Scott Mitchell will remain the quarterback of the Lions for the start of the Bobby Ross era as Detroit re-signed the lefty thrower to deal reportedly worth \$22 million over four years.

Mitchell, who just completed a three-year, \$11 million contract, had rejected a four-year extension during the season but changed his mind about staying after the Lions fired coach Wayne Foytes and hired Ross as his successor.

"I've never quit in anything in my life and I'm not going to do it now," said Mitchell at a news conference at the Silverdome.

## Japanese pitcher will abide by trade rules

Hideki Irabu, the Japanese pitcher attempting to become a free agent rather than sign with the San Diego Padres, promised to accept any trade, according to a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

Irabu a 27-year-old right-hander, wants to play in the major leagues, and the New York Yankees want to sign him. The Padres agreed last month to a deal with Irabu's team in Japan, the Chiba Lotte Marines, for what San Diego says is exclusive negotiating rights.

"I will abide by the good faith negotiations of the Marines to select a team for me in America," stated a December 4 letter to the Marines from Irabu and his agent, Don Nomura.

## Mesa trial scheduled for March 31

Cleveland Indians reliever Jose Mesa will go on trial on a rape charge on March 31, two days before the club opens the season at Oakland.

Mesa, who has pleaded innocent, attended a pretrial hearing Tuesday before Cuyahoga County common pleas judge Thomas Curran.

The judge scheduled a hearing for March 11 for pretrial motions.

Mesa, 30, is free on a \$10,000 bond. He entered the innocent plea and surrendered his passport to authorities on Friday. Mesa is a native of the Dominican Republic.

## Russian swimmer sets butterfly record

Russia's double Olympic champion Denis Pankratov set his second short-course world record in less than a week yesterday when he clocked 51.93 seconds for the 100 meters butterfly at a World Cup meeting.

The previous best had stood for almost seven years, although Pankratov himself swam faster in Paris last year only to be denied the record because French meet organizers had run out of bottles to administer the dope tests necessary for ratification.

Marcel Gery of Canada set the old mark of 52.07 in Leicester, England, on February 23, 1990.

Pankratov is the first man to hold all four butterfly world records - 100 and 200 long-course (50-meter pool) and short-course (25-meter pool).

# Lemieux notches 600th goal

PITTSBURGH (Reuter) - Penguins superstar center Mario Lemieux put himself in some rather elite company Tuesday when he became the seventh player in National Hockey League history to record 600 career goals.

Lemieux, who has said he will likely retire after this season, scored into an empty net with 56 seconds left in the third period as Pittsburgh beat the Vancouver Canucks 6-4.

With the Penguins leading 5-4 and Vancouver goaltender Kirk McLean pulled for an extra attacker, Lemieux took a pass from Ron Francis, skated along the boards, and sent the puck into the empty net for his historic goal.

Lemieux skated with his arms in the air to the sound of a huge ovation from the home crowd and broke into a smile as he reached his teammates on the Pittsburgh bench.

"It's a pretty special list," Lemieux said of the elite 600-goal club. "You look at the names: (Phil) Esposito, Marcel Dionne, (Wayne) Gretzky; to be included on that list is something I'll be able to cherish all my life."

Pittsburgh's Jaromir Jagr picked up his league-leading 43rd goal in the second period, and Francis broke a 4-4 deadlock with 3:32 left in the third for the Penguins.

The Canucks appeared to have tied the contest with 2:06 left, but Jyrki Lumme's goal was disallowed after the replay judge ruled Trevor Lindoe's right skate was in the crease.



LUCKY 7 - Mario Lemieux became the seventh player in NHL history to score 600 goals.

scoreboard until the third period, when Campbell's slap shot hit the crossbar and fell into the net.

Vernon made 26 saves, while the Blues' Grant Fuhr stopped 25 shots in the goaltenders' duel.

### TUESDAY'S RESULTS:

Ottawa 4, Boston 3  
Pittsburgh 6, Vancouver 4  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Anaheim 3  
Buffalo 1, Philadelphia 1  
St. Louis 1, Detroit 1  
Tampa Bay 2, Phoenix 0

WESTERN CONFERENCE					EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division					Atlantic Division							
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	29	19	4	62	157	127	Philadelphia	29	15	6	65	122
Detroit	24	17	10	58	153	116	Florida	26	15	11	63	149
St. Louis	26	24	5	55	161	166	N.Y. Rangers	26	21	7	69	184
Phoenix	22	26	4	48	140	103	New Jersey	24	17	6	58	129
Chicago	20	26	6	48	137	143	Washington	21	25	6	48	136
Toronto	19	33	1	39	150	188	Tampa Bay	19	26	6	44	139
Pacific Division					Northwest Division							
Colorado	32	13	8	72	182	124	Pittsburgh	29	16	5	83	184
Edmonton	25	22	5	55	184	151	Buffalo	27	19	7	61	161
Vancouver	24	26	2	50	195	176	Montreal	19	25	10	48	188
Anaheim	20	26	6	48	149	159	Hartford	20	23	7	47	146
Calgary	19	27	6	44	131	154	Boston	20	26	6	46	160
Los Angeles	19	28	6	44	144	163	Ottawa	16	23	10	48	142
San Jose	19	27	5	43	134	182						

## Red Wings 1, Blues 1

Jim Campbell scored at 5:15 of the third period to lift the visiting St. Louis Blues to a tie with the Red Wings, defeating Detroit coach Scotty Bowman his 1,000 career regular season victory.

Bowman's remarkable record in a 25-year NHL coaching career stands at 999-451-254. He will get his next chance to reach the lofty milestone today.

Nicklas Lidstrom scored a power-play goal for Detroit just 3:33 into the game. Detroit goaltender Mike Vernon kept St. Louis off the

# 'Homeless' Maccabi in trouble against visiting Berlin

By BRIAN FREEMAN

On the eve of Maccabi Tel Aviv's match in Germany against Alba Berlin last month, prospects were bright for the Israelis. Maccabi had managed to finish in the top three in the Euro League's first stage and was ready to put some distance between itself and the middle of the pack, while Alba needed a home win in the worst way.

Three games and two losses later for Maccabi - including a 70-65 defeat that night in Berlin - it is the Israelis scrambling to finish in the top four and Berlin which is sitting pretty.

And although tonight Maccabi is at home, that has not nearly been the blessing it once was (see box).

In its victory last month over Maccabi, Alba used its aggressive style of play to exploit the absence of both Buck Johnson and Brad Leaf. Johnson is back but Leaf aggravated his foot injury in practice this week and is out expected to be able to contribute many minutes. This could deprive Maccabi of its most potent force off the bench.

Alba enters tonight's game coming off the heels of another domes-

tie win to boost its record in the German league to 22-0. However, in its last European contest, Berlin fell at home 78-68 to Stefanel Milan.

Berlin is not centered around one star, although former Maccabi Tel Aviv player Wendell Alexis, who scored a team-high 17 points in the first game against Maccabi, leads Alba with a 15.2 average.

He is complemented nicely by Berlin's other foreigner, point guard Sasha Obradovic, who averages 14.1 points and 2.2 steals a contest.

He is joined in the backcourt by Henrik Rudl, who scored 16 points and pulled down seven rebounds in the first matchup against Maccabi. He averages 10.8 points a contest and loves to drive the lane, but he is only shooting 18.8 percent from three-point territory. This is a problem that plagues the entire team, which connects on only 27.7% of its shots from behind the arc (compared with 35% for Maccabi).

Alba also hurt itself by poor free-throw shooting (67.4% compared with Maccabi's 78.6%), particularly center Sasha Hupman, who makes only 33.9% of his shots from the free-throw line while

scoring 10.8 points a contest.

Rounding out the starting lineup is former Bayer Leverkusen star Henning Harnisch (9.5 average), whose overall strong game made his transfer to Alba the most spectacular move in the German league

over the summer.

Maccabi has never lost to a German club at home in four previous encounters during the championships.

Tonight's game is scheduled to begin at 8:45 pm.

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# Bullets fire coach

DENVER (Reuter) - The Washington Bullets, losers of nine of their last 12 games, fired head coach Jim Lynam yesterday and named assistant Bob Staak interim head coach of the struggling club.

Staak will coach the Bullets' final game before this week-end's All-Star break last night against the Nuggets.

"I felt that it was necessary at this time to make a change in the head coaching position," said Bullets executive vice president and general manager Wes Unseld in a statement.

Unseld met with Lynam at the team hotel in Denver and informed the players and coaching staff of the decision prior to the team's morning practice at McNichols Sports Arena.

"We have committed a tremendous amount of resources to this team, but it just was not working," he said.

The Bullets spent more than \$100 million to retain Juwan Howard to a multi-year contract and added point guard Rod Strickland in the off-season.

Despite a nucleus of forwards Chris Webber, Howard and Strickland, the Bullets are in fourth place in the Atlantic Division with a 22-24 record.

"I'm very disappointed at not having the opportunity to see this through," said Lynam. "I take full responsibility for the performance of the team and I certainly feel that our record is not reflective of the talent on this team to make a change in the head coaching position," said Bullets executive vice president and general manager Wes Unseld in a statement.

Unseld met with Lynam at the team hotel in Denver and informed the players and coaching staff of the decision prior to the team's morning practice at McNichols Sports Arena.

"We have committed a tremendous amount of resources to this team, but it just was not working," he said.

The Bullets spent more than \$100 million to retain Juwan Howard to a multi-year contract and added point guard Rod Strickland in the off-season.

Unseld said the two routes were "not acceptable." The Bullets have lost six of their last eight games.

## The long road ahead

Maccabi Tel Aviv enters the final three games of the final pool knowing it won't finish first or last, but the fight to finish among the top four in Group E and advance to the Final 16 is wide open.

Although a quick glance at the schedule would seem to indicate an advantage to the Israelis, several factors diminish Maccabi's chances.

It is true that two of Tel Aviv's remaining games are at home and the only away contest is against winless Chariot, but Yad Eliahu is hardly the terror it once was for opponents.

The team is only 5-5 in its last 10 European games at home (dating back to last season) after posting a 27-5 mark at Yad Eliahu during the last five seasons. Something has clearly happened to Maccabi's famed home-court atmosphere, which witnessed the blue-and-yellow win 28 consecutive European games over seven seasons (1977-83).

Another problem is that the three clubs fighting Maccabi for the Final 16 spots have all beaten the Israelis (CSKA has done it twice). This means

Maccabi currently is at a severe disadvantage in any tie-breaker scenario, a factor which is likely to come into play considering the tightness of the race.

For these reasons, Maccabi's lofty goal of finishing second - and thus earning home-court advantage in the best two-of-three Final 16 - will be even tougher.

Maccabi can at least take comfort in some advantages, the most significant of which is that two of its rivals (Alba Berlin and Olympiakos) have already played Chariot twice and thus don't have an "automatic" win remaining.

Remaining schedules of teams with chance to join Stefanel Milan as one of the four teams to advance from Group E:

Maccabi Tel Aviv: Alba Berlin (home); Chariot (away); Olympiakos (home); CSKA Moscow (home); Stefanel Milan (away).

Alba Berlin: Maccabi Tel Aviv (away); CSKA Moscow (home); Stefanel Milan (away).

Chariot (home): Olympiakos (home); CSKA Moscow (away); Stefanel Milan (home); Maccabi Tel Aviv (away).

# Olajuwon only Rocket All-Star left

NEW YORK (AP) - The Houston Rockets' All-Star trio has been reduced to a solo act.

Charles Barkley on Tuesday ruled himself out of the All-Star Game because of an ankle sprain, and teammate Clyde Drexler aggravated a hamstring injury Tuesday night that will force him to miss the game, too.

That left Hakeem Olajuwon as the only member of the Rockets who will play in Sunday's annual All-Star exhibition at Cleveland.

The NBA selected Detlef Schrempf of the Seattle SuperSonics to take Barkley's place, and a replacement for Drexler was likely to be named later yesterday.

Drexler reinjured his right hamstring late in the fourth quarter of a 99-95 loss to the New York Knicks. He returned Sunday from the injury, which sidelined him for

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS: New Jersey 111, Vancouver 105; Orlando 111, Indiana 87; Charlotte 115, Minnesota 101; New York 99, Houston 95; Cleveland 79, Milwaukee 76; Dallas 104, Sacramento 96; Chicago 88, Portland 84; Atlanta 107, Golden State 85; L.A. Clippers 108, L.A. Lakers 86.

WESTERN CONFERENCE					EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division					Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Utah	32	14	.696	Miami	34	12	.739		
Houston	32	15	.684	New York	33	14	.702		
Minnesota	22	26	.458	Orlando	23	20	.532		
Dallas	15	29	.344	Washington	22	24	.478		
Denver	15	32	.319	New Jersey	13	32	.292		
San Antonio	11	32	.256	Boston	11	33	.250		
Vancouver	9	41	.180	Philadelphia	11	34	.244		
Pacific Division					Central Division				
L.A. Lakers	34	13	.723	Chicago	42	5	.894		
Seattle	32	14	.696	Detroit	33	12	.733		
Portland	28	23	.551	Atlanta	31	14	.688		
Sacramento	21	27	.438	Charlotte	29	19	.604		
L.A. Clippers	18	25	.423	Cleveland	22	23	.489		
Golden State	17	29	.370	Indiana	22	23	.489		
Phoenix	16	31	.340	Milwaukee	21	25	.457		
					Toronto	16	29	.356	



Charles Barkley: Out of action the previous two games.

Barkley, picked as a Western Conference starter in fan balloting, has missed the Rockets' last seven games because of a sprained right ankle. He said he expects to return to the lineup a week from

Friday against Seattle.

Schrempf, averaging 16.9 points, 6.8 rebounds and 4.9 assists, will join Sonics teammates Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton on the Western Conference team. His selection means the NBA passed over 20-year-old second-year man Kevin Garnett of Minnesota, whose numbers are comparable to Schrempf's.

Drexler's spot could go to either Garnett or Kenny Anderson of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Lakers star center Shaquille O'Neal, who sat out Tuesday's loss to the Los Angeles Clippers with a sprained right knee, will miss at least the next week of action, including the All-Star Game as well.

## All-Star Rosters:

EASTERN CONFERENCE: Vin Baker, F, Milwaukee; Terrell Brandon, G, Cleveland; x-Patrick Ewing, C, New York; x-Penny Hardaway, G, Orlando; Tim Hardaway, G, Miami; x-Grant Hill, F, Detroit; x-Michael Jordan, G, Chicago; Christian Laethier, F, Atlanta; Alonzo Mourning, C, Miami; Dikembe Mutombo, C, Atlanta; x-Scottie Pippen, F, Chicago; and Glen Rice, F-G, Charlotte.

WESTERN CONFERENCE: x-Charles Barkley, F, Houston; x-Clyde Drexler, G, Houston; Tom Gugliotta, F, Minnesota; Eddie Jones, G-F, L.A.; Lakers: x-Shawn Kemp, F, Seattle; Karl Malone, F, Utah; x-Hakeem Olajuwon, C, Houston; x-Shaquille O'Neal, C, L.A.; Lakers: x-Gary Payton, G, Seattle; Mitch Richmond, G, Sacramento; y-Detlef Schrempf, F, Seattle; Latrell Sprewell, G, Golden State; and x-John Stockton, G, Utah.

x-starter y-injury replacement for Barkley z-will not play due to injury

# Rodman to play eleven free games

NEW YORK (AP) - Dennis Rodman, suspended by the NBA since kicking a cameraman on January 15, has been reinstated by the league and will return to the Chicago Bulls on February 11.

However, NBA commissioner David Stern warned Tuesday that the Bulls star could face banishment from the league if he persists in such conduct.

Rodman's agent, Dwight Manley, said his client will play his first 11 games after the suspension for free as a gesture of appreciation to his fans. Manley said Rodman will "donate the money on behalf of himself and the Bulls to 11 assorted charities."

Rodman and Manley attended Tuesday night's game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers at Anaheim Arena.

"I think it's unfortunate for the fans and everybody else that it occurred," Rodman said, referring to the kicking incident. "I'm glad I can come back and play like I do again."

"I could say I'm sorry until I'm blue in the face, and it wouldn't prove anything."

## SCOREBOARD

SOCCER - FA Cup (fourth round): Manchester City 3, Watford 1.

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